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MORAYSHIRE DESCRIBED.

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MORAYSHIRE DESCRIBED:

BEING

A GUIDE TO VISITORS,

CONTAINING NOTICES OF

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MILITARY ANTIQUITIES;

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL

COUNTRY RESIDENCES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES,

AND

GENEALOGICAL NOTES OF THE LEADING FAMILIES IN THE COUNTY.

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY J. & W. WATSON.

ELGIN:

RUSSELL & WATSON.

MDCCCLXVIII.

1859

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

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P R E F A C E.

THE want of a Guide to Morayshire has long been felt by the numerous tourists who visit this important part of the country. It was with considerable diffidence that the preparation of **MORAYSHIRE DESCRIBED** was undertaken with a view to supply this want ; and it is now presented to the public, in the hope that it will not only be useful to the stranger, but also to some extent interesting to the sons of Moray at home and abroad. Descriptive notices of the several residences throughout the county ; the public buildings, and principal private residences in the several towns and villages form a leading feature in this work ; while a considerable space is devoted to the genealogies of all the leading families in the county, brought down to the present date.

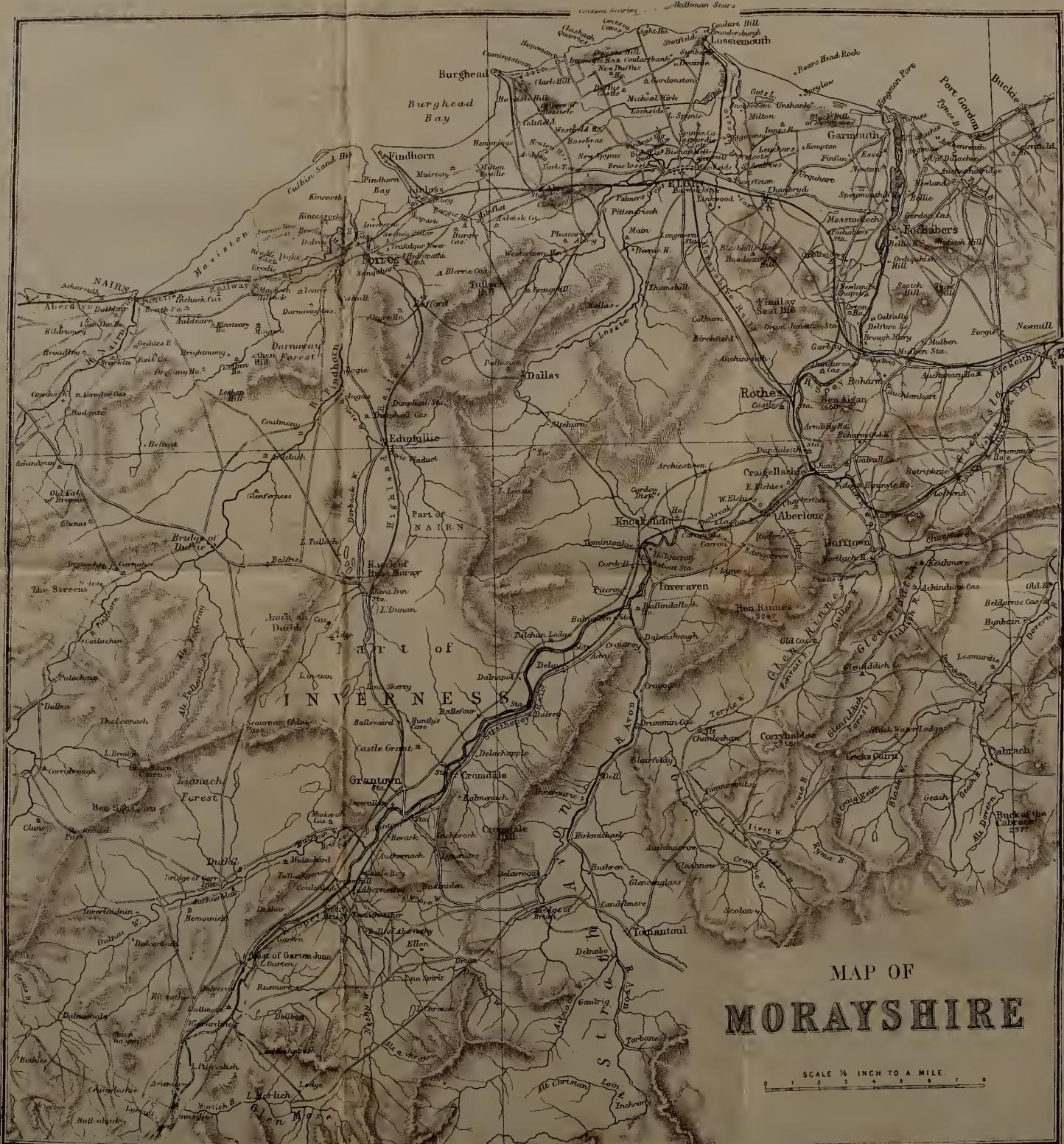
There were so many excellent descriptions of places in Morayshire already in existence, that it was deemed unnecessary to produce a work on an entirely original basis. From the manner in which the extracts are in many cases interwoven with each other, and with original matter, it was found impracticable to acknowledge them separately throughout the volume. The works principally drawn upon are Shaw's History

of Moray, Fullerton's Gazetteer of Scotland, Rhind's Sketches of Moray, Edward I. in the North of Scotland, Black's Morayshire Directory, the Statistical Account of the County, and the Local Newspapers.

The valuable services of Captain Dunbar Dunbar of Sea-Park, and Robert Young, Esq., Elgin, are gratefully acknowledged. Both these gentlemen have handsomely contributed of the fruit of their extensive knowledge of local history and genealogical and antiquarian research to this work, and devoted a large amount of time and trouble in rendering the extracts from other works as accurate as possible. To Mr Young we were indebted for an admirable and lengthened sketch of Burghead, containing a vast store of valuable information ; but our limited space compelled us, however reluctantly, to condense and abridge it.

To the proprietors of the *Elgin Courant* and *Elgin Courier* our thanks are also due for placing the files of these newspapers at our disposal, from which much valuable information has been culled. The extensive local knowledge possessed by John Miller, Esq., of the *Forres Gazette*, was not only made readily available, but, along with Captain Dunbar Dunbar, he also bestowed a great amount of labour in revising our description of the town of Forres.

ELGIN, April, 1868.



MAP OF
MORAYSHIRE

SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ INCH TO A MILE



MORAYSHIRE DESCRIBED.

“ O ! 'tis a land where Nature's hand spreads beauty rich and rare—
A land that teems with fruit and flowers, and mild and balmy air ;
O ! 'tis the land o' ruins grey, and antiquarian lore—
O' towers and keeps and castell'd halls, great in day o' yore ;
O ! 'tis a land o' grandeur still—romance yet lingers there,
There Spey and Findhorn sweep along, and gentle Lossie fair.
Auld Moray land, auld Moray land, O ! Moray land for me,
O ! weel I lo'e thee, Moray land, my native north countrie.”

DUNBAR.

THE “ Imperial Gazetteer of Scotland” thus describes the county of Moray :—Morayshire—often called Elginshire, from the name of its capital—is the central division of the ancient province of Moray. It is bounded on the north by the Moray frith ; on the east and south-east by Banffshire ; on the south and south-west by Inverness-shire ; and on the west by Nairnshire. Over 25 miles on the east its boundary is traced by the river Spey, and over 24 miles on the west, by a ridgy water-shed, the north-eastern prolongation of the Monadhleagh mountains ; but everywhere else, except along the Moray frith, the

boundaries are altogether artificial. Even the Spey is a boundary-line only at intervals, or with interruptions ; and has on its left bank, one farm belonging to Banffshire, and, on its right bank, no fewer than six pendicles of Morayshire,—each of which is from 5 to 9 miles in length. The county itself, however, is not compact ; but consists of two separate, though not widely detached, parts. The larger part lies on the north ; and is not very far from having the outline of an equilateral triangle. The smaller division of the county is separated from the larger by the intervention of a detached district of Inverness-shire, and by two very small detached districts of Nairnshire ; and lies to the south-west at the distance of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 miles. Except for a connecting neck of less than a mile, upon the Spey, a little below the church of Abernethy, this division would consist of two detached parts. Its western part lies on the left bank of the Spey, is bounded by that stream for 7 miles, and measures 12 miles from north to south, and 9 in the opposite direction ; and its eastern part forms the largest of the county's sections on the right bank of the Spey, and extends 9 miles north-west and south-east, with a breadth of from 4 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The superficial contents of the county are, in all authorities, so very variously and loosely stated, that they seem never to have been even approximately ascertained. Leslie's “ View of the Agriculture of Nairn and Moray” assigns as the area of these counties conjoined, about 800 square miles, or 512,000 English acres ; the author of the “ Beauties of Scotland” assigns 800 square miles to Morayshire alone ; and Oliver & Boyd's Almanac at one time states the area of Moray-

shire at 531 square miles or 340,000 acres, and at another time states it at 840 square miles or 537,600 acres. The latter statement of Oliver and Boyd is the earlier of the two, being superseded by the other in the later years of the Almanac.

The sea-board part of the greater of the two detached districts of the county is, in a general view, a champaign country, and contains more amenities of climate, wealth of cultivation, and beauty of landscape than any other territory of equal extent in the northern lowlands. Its breadth ranges between 5 and 12 miles, and probably averages about 7. A pendicle of it in the north-east consists of the greater portion of the Culbin sands, and, of course, is all deduction from both worth and beauty. All the other portions are an expanse of low country diversified by many gentle rising grounds, and by large terraces and pleasant ridges; and, being everywhere laden with crops, or arrayed in wood, or adorned with pleasure-grounds, or gemmed with towns and mansions, they present occasionally a luscious, and often an attractive picture. The district behind the plain ascends rapidly from hill to mountain, and becomes nearly throughout a wilderness of upland pasture, intersected with glens and vales along the course of streams enclosing numerous though small plains of great fertility and beauty, and containing along the skirts of the heights much land which luxuriates in verdure, or yields returns to the labours of tillage.

Though the champaign district has a northern exposure, and lies within the 58th degree of north latitude, it possesses singular mildness of climate. Pro-

bably no part of Scotland, not even East Lothian, can compete with Moray in the number and brilliancy of the spontaneous testimonies which have been borne to its capabilities and wealth as orchard and tillage ground. A very old and common saying asserts, according to some versions, that Moray has 15, and according to others that it has 40 days more of summer than most other parts of Scotland. Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, describing the province in 1640, says, "In salubrity of climate, Moray is not inferior to any, and in richness and fertility of soil it much exceeds our other northern provinces. The air is so temperate, that when all around is bound up in the rigour of winter, there are neither lasting snows nor such frosts as damage fruits or trees. There is no product of this kingdom which does not thrive there perfectly, or, if any fail, it is to be attributed to the sloth of the inhabitants, not to the fault of the soil or climate. Corn, the earth pours forth in wonderful and never-failing abundance. Fruits of all sorts, herbs, flowers, pulse, are in the greatest plenty, and all early. While harvest has scarcely begun in surrounding districts, there all is ripe and cut down, and carried into open stack-yards, as is the custom of the country ; and, in comparison with other districts, winter is hardly felt. The earth is almost always open, the sea navigable, and the roads never stopped." The wind blows from some point near the west during about 260 days in the year ; and, in the summer, it is for the most part a gentle breeze, coming oftener from the south than from the north side of the west. Winds from the north-west or north generally bring the heaviest and longest rains ; and

winds from the south or south-east usually bring only slight or drizzling showers, occasionally accompanied with thunder. The district presents no object so elevated as to attract the clouds while they sail from the mass of mountains on the south towards the alps of Sutherland. Winter is singularly mild, and, for a very brief aggregate period, sheets the ground with snow ; summer rarely commences its characteristic warmth till July ; and autumn, in some years, is uniformly the driest and most pleasant season, and, in others, is rainy from about the equinox till after the middle of October.

Sandstone occurs in sufficient plenty and excellence to construct vast cities ; and at Newton, Quarrywood, Bishopmill, Spynie, Lossiemouth, Cummingstone, and Covesea is quarried for every purpose of architecture, and for pillars, rollers, and paving-flags. Limestone occurs in several places near the coast ; it began to be quarried upon the estate of Glassgreen about the year 1740 ; and it is now worked in various quarries. Lead was mined for in the Coulart-hill, west of Lossiemouth, about the year 1773 ; but it occurred only in small nodules, and was abandoned. A shaft was again sunk in 1852 at Stotfield, and although persevering efforts were made for nearly twelve months, the percentage of lead found was so small that the enterprise had to be abandoned. The locus of this last venture may be found among the sand hills immediately above Stotfield bay. Iron ore is believed to exist in abundance in the high country ; and about the year 1730, an iron foundry, once of high consideration, but long ago almost forgotten, was established by the York Building

Company at Coulnakyle in Strathspey. Iron ore was discovered on the slopes of Benaigen, near Arndilly (Banffshire), in 1864, and several hundred tons excavated and sent south to be smelted, but the return was too limited to warrant operations on an extensive scale being entered upon.

Forests of natural wood, as is proved by the existence of large trunks of oaks and pines in the mosses and in the beds of streams, anciently covered the greater part of the champaign country, and formed part of the *Sylvæ Caledoniæ* of early historians. An expanse of natural pine still exists on the Strathspey frontier toward Inverness-shire, forming a small part of a forest of nearly 20,000 acres, chiefly within Inverness-shire, whence supplies of timber, in large quantities, have for a long period been floated down the Spey to Garmouth. Other natural woods, consisting of birch, hazle, alder, and a few oaks, occur in little groves and stripes along the banks of the rivers, and several of the smaller streams ; and, in some instances, have been enlarged by plantation ; but, in the champaign country, they are all of very limited extent. Plantations began generally to be formed about the year 1770 ; and they now cover many hills of moderate height, and a great proportion of the grounds in all parts of the county which are unfit for cultivation. Those of the smaller proprietors bear, in general, a larger proportion to the extent of their estate than those of the greater proprietors ; the latter, however, being still considerable. The trees first planted were exclusively Scottish firs ; but from about the year 1800 these began to be gradually cut out, and substituted by larch, and the harder kinds of timber. Heldon

Hill, belonging to the Earl of Fife, is one of the largest woods in the county. Quarrywood is also of great extent. The woods of Altyre are very extensive, and across the Findhorn are the famous natural woods and the forests of Darnaway, which, for size of timber, have no equal in Morayshire. Then there are the extensive forests of the Earl of Seafield in the parish of Abernethy, in the detached portion of Morayshire. The total extent of wood in the county, in the year 1854, was estimated, in the agricultural statistical returns to the Board of Trade, at 1,354½ acres.

Perhaps no part of Scotland has been improved so much, in all that pertains to the cultivation of the soil, as this county has been within the past sixty years. In the beginning of the present century, Moray was far behind the Howe of the Mearns, the valley of Strathmore, and the Lothians, in agriculture ; but spirited landlords, enterprising tenants, and a Farmers' Society, have together brought the cultivation of our soil to a degree of perfection which will bear comparison with that attained in any other county in the kingdom. Morayshire may be divided into two agricultural districts, favourable to the growth of different crops. The wheat and barley-growing district, including perhaps about 200 square miles, has been long known as the "Laich o' Moray," and is celebrated for its fertility. Taking the three principal cereal crops—wheat, barley, and oats—it is perhaps near the truth to say that the breadth laid down yearly in barley is nearly equal to the extent sown with wheat and oats. Dryness and sunshine being two essential conditions for bringing wheat and barley to perfection, the soil

and climate of the “Laich o’ Moray” are admirably adapted to their cultivation, and, upon an average of years, the quality of these cereals, when brought to the market, is certainly equal in point of excellence to that of the same crops grown in any county in Scotland, East Lothian not excepted. The southern portion of the county, being elevated considerably above the level of the sea, with a colder climate, and visited by heavier and more frequent falls of rain, is confined chiefly to the cultivation of oats, although, in the more sheltered glens, fields of barley may be seen, some of them of large extent. The oats (and barley, where it is grown) are generally of good quality, equal to, if they do not surpass, the same grain in the inland districts of any of the surrounding counties.

The soil of the arable lands of the county may be classified under the general names of sandy clay, loam, and reclaimed moss. Sandy or a light soil in which sand predominates, extends, with inconsiderable exceptions, over the eastern half of the lowlands, or all Speymouth, Urquhart, St Andrews-Lhanbryd, and Drainie, the eastern part of Spynie, the greater part of Elgin, and the lower lands of Birnie and Dallas. A clay soil prevails throughout Duffus and Alves, part of Spynie, and small pendicles of the sandy district. A loamy soil covers extensive tracts in Duffus, Alves, and Spynie, and nearly the whole of Kinloss, Forres, Dyke, the lower lands of Rafford and Edinkillie, and the plains or alluvial grounds of the Highland straths. A clay-loam covers a considerable part of Knockando.

The breeding and rearing of cattle has now become in Moray one of the most important branches of agri-

cultural industry. In the “Laich o’ Moray” the Highland breed of cattle has entirely disappeared, and the same remark applies to Highland sheep. Some of the large farmers devote their attention chiefly to the breeding of pure shorthorned cattle, others to that of pure Aberdeenshire polled cattle, but the greater number breed and rear crosses between the shorthorned and polled breeds, which the majority of farmers believe to have the soundest constitution, and to be more rapid in growth, also taking on fat more readily than any other variety. In Morayshire there are several of the finest polled herds in Scotland. Morayshire polled cattle are generally found carrying off prizes at the great national cattle shows held in Scotland, England, and France. Many excellent herds of shorthorns are also to be found here. Almost every large farmer has fine specimens of the breed, and this results in close and keen competitions at the local cattle shows. The stock generally reared for the market consists, however, of crosses. Morayshire is no less distinguished for the excellence of its sheep than for that of its cattle. The breeds kept are chiefly Leicesters and crosses, and Southdowns may also be seen at local exhibitions, chiefly from Gordon Castle. The Leicesters are, however, the standard breed of the county, and a number of the more extensive farmers in it keep large flocks all the year round. On the higher grounds the black-faced variety is found to be more suitable, being hardier and able to live, and keep up condition, where Leicesters could not find a subsistence. Of this breed as well as of Leicesters, there are some fine flocks in Morayshire.

Besides agricultural pursuits, which give employment to about half the inhabitants, the industry of the county is represented by extensive salmon fisheries on the Spey and Findhorn, and at every available nook along the sea-shore. The Duke of Richmond's portion of the Spey fishing alone is computed at £10,000 of yearly rental. The deep sea and herring fishing employs a large number of those dwelling in the numerous villages along the coast. The value of the herrings caught annually on this coast is estimated at something over £30,000. There are five woollen manufactories—one at Newmill, one at Forres, one at Lhanbryd, one at Glen of Rothes, and one at Miltonduff; manure and chemical works are in full operation at Forres and Burghead; two extensive tan works, and two iron foundries; six spirit distilleries, and three ale and porter breweries; a brick and tile work; a net manufactory, and a great number of flour, meal, and sawmills; shipbuilding yards and freestone quarries. The exports consist of cattle, corn, potatoes, salmon, herrings, haddock, freestone, timber, and whisky.

In 1861 the population was 44,218. The gross rental of the county, according to the Valuation Roll for 1866, was £133,794 19s. The principal landed proprietors are His Grace the Duke of Richmond, the Earls of Fife, Seafield, and Moray; Sir W. Gordon Gordon Cumming, Bart., (minor), and Sir Archibald Dunbar, Bart.

The means of communication with other districts at the beginning of the present century were very limited, there being no public conveyances. "The

first mail coach started in the north was in 1812, and the blast of its horn as it entered the town of Elgin with a couple of horses, and a guard with the Royal livery, excited no small interest among the inhabitants, and was hailed as the harbinger of a new era." The main artery of communication was the great trunk road from the south passing through Fochabers, Elgin, and Forres, to Nairn and Inverness. Turnpike and commutation roads intersected the county from the seaport towns of Garmouth and Lossiemouth to Rothes and Craigellachie ; and from Burghead and Findhorn by Forres to Grantown and Strathspey. According to a survey made in 1866, the total length of roads within the county was found to be 439 miles.

After the opening of the railways in the county, the traffic on the turnpikes decreased to such an extent that the amount realised for toll dues was barely sufficient to keep the roads in repair. The Commissioners of Supply, in conjunction with the Commissioners of Nairnshire, promoted a Road Bill to abolish tolls and levy a rate to maintain the roads and bridges and pay off the then existing debts. This measure became law in 1863, and the following year the time-honoured toll bars were swept away and the toll-houses sold to the highest bidder. Pontage dues are still levied at the Findhorn Suspension Bridge, and will be continued until the subscribed capital of the company be repaid with five per cent. interest. The capital was originally £6170, and the balance still due amounts to about £2000.

The Morayshire Railway, connecting Elgin with its seaport of Lossiemouth, was the first line of railway

completed in the north. The opening of this short line, in August 1852, was made the occasion of great rejoicing by the inhabitants of Elgin and Lossiemouth. A branch line from the Orton station of the Highland Railway to Dandaleith was opened on 23d December 1858. The company subsequently extended their line from Elgin through the Glen of Rothes, crossed the Spey near Craigellachie, and formed a junction with the Strathspey line. The Morayshire Railway Company have thus a direct line from Lossiemouth to Craigellachie, with a connecting link from Rothes to the Highland line at Orton.

While the Great North of Scotland Railway Company were pushing on their line from Aberdeen to Huntly and Keith, another company promoted a line from Inverness to Nairn ; and in 1858 a junction was formed between these two sections, completing the coast line of railway from London to Inverness.

In 1860 the Findhorn Railway Company constructed a line from the Kinloss station of the Highland Railway to the port of Findhorn. A branch line was opened in December 1862 from Alves station to Burghead.

In 1862 railway communication was completed between Keith and Dufftown. The Strathspey Railway, opened in 1863, runs from Dufftown along the course of the Fiddich to Craigellachie ;—a junction is thus formed, by a detour through Botriphnie and Mortlach, between the Great North system and the Morayshire lines. From Craigellachie Junction the Strathspey section traverses the banks of the Spey to Nethy Bridge, from whence, in 1866, it was extended to the

Boat of Garten station of the Highland Railway. All the subsidiary lines between the Dee and the Spey—including the Keith and Dufftown and Strathspey lines—are now merged into the Great North of Scotland Railway Company.

The Inverness and Perth Junction Railway Company was incorporated in 1861, for promoting a line of railway from Forres by way of Grantown, Kingussie, and Blair Athole to Dunkeld and Perth, a distance of 104 miles. The works were completed and the line opened throughout in 1863. This company afterwards amalgamated with the Inverness and Aberdeen Junction, the Inverness and Nairn, and the Ross-shire Companies, under the designation of "The Highland Railway Company;" and the entire railway system (with the exception of the Morayshire and Findhorn lines,) from Keith to Inverness and Bonar-Bridge, and from Forres to Perth, is now known as The Highland Line. This important undertaking is some 246 miles in length, and is of immense advantage to the northern counties, bringing them as it does within easy access of the metropolitan markets, and forming the highway for sending cattle, agricultural produce, and native manufactures to the South. The total share and loan capital of the company amounts to £2,209,080.

The county is thus traversed by four distinct lines of railway, two of them—the Highland line from Forres through Edinkillie to Grantown and onwards to Perth, and the Morayshire line from Lossiemouth to Craigellachie—running nearly north and south; and the other two—the Strathspey line from Craigellachie to

Abernethy, and the Keith, Fochabers, and Elgin section of the Highland line, running east and west.

The journey from London to Elgin, the county town, a distance of about 560 miles, is accomplished in eighteen or twenty hours; and from Edinburgh or Glasgow, nearly 200 miles, in eight hours. The mails from the South, formerly carried by way of Aberdeen and Keith, are now carried by the Highland Railway Company, via Dunkeld and Forres.

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MILITARY ANTIQUITIES.

“ The land o’ monks an’ priests,
The cosey nook whose girnels changed their fastin’s into feasts,
Whose beeves an’ barrels coft their prayers, an’ made them ‘ like their meat’—
The lads that didna eat to live, but lived to drink an’ eat.
Kinloss, Kinneddar, Pluscarden, an’ Spynie’s blacken’d wa’s,
The Chan’ry flaffin’ out its wings, an’ still sae proudly craws—
Declare how many gabs ye fed o’ chiels that wudna work !—
Then keep your bannocks to yoursel, an’ stick ye by the Kirk.”

W. HAY.

KINLOSS ABBEY.

THE Abbey of Kinloss was founded in 1150—about twenty-five years after the erection of Urquhart Priory. The Abbey stood on an elevated plain on the borders of the bay of Findhorn, commanding a beautiful view of the Moray Frith and the Ross-shire hills to the westward. It was richly endowed by its founder, David I. The property belonging to it comprised the fertile plain from the river Findhorn to Alves ; the lands of Burgie ; Dundurcas, on Speyside ; the estate of

Grange, in Strathisla ; and Ellon, in Aberdeenshire, besides fishings on the Findhorn, mills and houses in several royal burghs. “ It had doubtless, like other religious houses of the same rank, its locutorium or parlour, where the monks met to converse with each other ; its scriptorium, where their books were transcribed and the writing of documents was executed ; its library ; its treasury, where the abbey seal, its charters, and church plate were kept ; its hostery, where strangers were entertained ; its almonry, where alms were distributed among the poor ; and its infirmary, where the sick belonging to the abbey were attended. Its church, which was dedicated to the blessed Virgin, had a nave, transepts, choir, and a lofty central tower, as in cathedrals, and was fitted up with altars and ornamented with images and paintings. Its foundations can still be traced ; and those also of the chapter-house, which stood near it. The latter edifice, which was supported by six pillars, is said to have been pulled down for the sake of its building materials in the last century. Half the gateway and the couples of several of the roofs, which were then to be seen, have also disappeared. The only parts of the ancient buildings now remaining, are one of the walls of the cloisters on the west, two fine Saxon arches on the south, and a portion of a building having an upper storey with a groined roof, supposed to have been the prior’s chambers, on the east. The ruins, when visited by Pennant in 1790, afforded ‘ specimens,’ as he states, ‘ of the most beautiful Gothic architecture, in all the elegance of simplicity, without any of its fantastic ornaments.’ A little to the south of these ruins are the remains of

a large house, of which the east gable and a portion of the wall are standing. It is arched or vaulted beneath, and has all the appearance of being a building of the sixteenth century."

The late Mr T. Mackenzie, architect, Elgin, in a paper on the ancient architecture of the county, speaking of this interesting ruin says—From what we read of Kinloss Abbey, it must have been a fine building ; but like many others in Morayshire, its beauty has been scattered to the winds, and scarcely a stone left upon another to tell its day and generation. The smallest fragment of moulding or ornament would have sufficed ; but even this is denied us, for here, as elsewhere, the dyke builders have been abroad. We can excuse the victorious Goths who overran Italy in early times, and destroyed many fine buildings, as this was done in the heat of battle and in the flush of conquest ; but what can we say of modern Goths, who, in cool blood and in the nineteenth century, have torn, and are tearing down, our best and noblest relics, of which Morayland, and even Scotland, might be proud—displacing for ever their hallowed and venerable stones, as if nothing less precious would suffice to build their vulgar dykes. I have been told, too, that a stone coffin, or sculptured sarcophagus, has been removed from the Abbey of Kinloss, and is now used by a neighbouring farmer as a trough for feeding pigs. The laird of Lethen converted it into a stone quarry, and sold the stones to the Commonwealth for building the Citadel of Inverness, which was founded in 1652.

The Abbey possessed within its own domain, all that was necessary for the support of its inmates.

Adjoining it were its orchard and garden, well stocked with fruit trees, vegetables, and medicinal herbs; also, its mill, brewhouse, and dovecot; while at its neighbouring grange or farm, containing many fertile corn-fields and rich meadows, were well-filled barns, and cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry in abundance. During Edward the First's invasion of Scotland in 1303, he took up his quarters, with the whole of his army, at Kinloss Abbey, and remained there from the 13th September to the 4th October, enjoying the princely hospitality of the monks. The supply of provisions and forage necessary for so large a body of men and horses as were now assembled here, must have been a heavy tax, which it required all the resources of the monks to meet. It is likely, indeed, that even these resources were insufficient for the purpose, and that the whole of the lower part of Moray was laid under contribution for supplies. Though there was a commissariat attached to the army, as appears from the circumstance of large stores of wheat, oats, pease, and dried and salt fish having been purchased and laid in for the campaigns of 1299 and 1300, yet the expense of provisioning the troops on the present occasion was entirely borne by the Abbey of Kinloss and the neighbouring country. Judging from one item of expenditure—viz., sixty chalders of malt, which, according to Ferrarius, were mentioned in the Abbey records as having been expended in the brewing of ale on this occasion—it may be presumed that the quantities of oats, barley, pease, hay, and straw, and the numbers of cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry, which the establishment had to fur-

nish, were proportionally great. Edward appears to have been accompanied during his expeditions by a large household establishment. It is stated that in the campaign of 1300 there were among the servants attending him, his fishers, with their nets ; and doubtless he had, besides these caterers of fish for his kitchen, a staff of butchers, bakers, cooks, butlers, and confectioners, who were able, out of the stores furnished them by the purveyors of the household, to supply the royal table, during the march, with its ordinary luxuries and delicacies. Of the manner in which the King and his suite were now lodged and entertained by the monks of Kinloss, there is no account extant. In the early part of the sixteenth century, the Abbey was fitted up with paintings, carved furniture, arras, and couches of silk ; but it may be doubted whether it had, with the exception of the tapestry, any of these articles of luxury at the time Edward paid his unwelcome visit to it. There is little doubt, however, that a religious house enjoying the wealth which the Abbey of Kinloss did, and superintended as it was by an official vested with episcopal power which gave him precedence or rank before barons, possessed, notwithstanding the rigid rules of the Cistercian order, an establishment which rivalled that of the highest noble in the land, and afforded the means of entertaining even a royal guest in a manner befitting his exalted station.



PRIORY OF PLUSCARDEN.

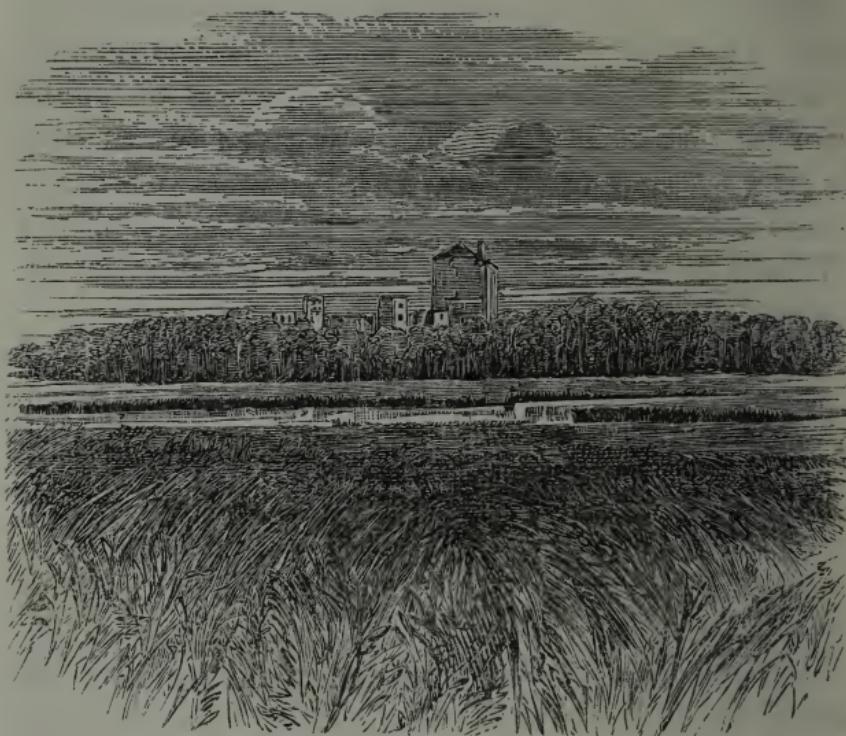
THE Priory of Pluscarden was founded by Alexander II. in 1230, and dedicated to St Andrew. The monks were at first independent, but having become rich, they became vicious, and the Priory was reformed and made a cell of Dunfermline. The whole of the valley, three miles in length, belonged to it, and also the lands of Oldmills, and some of the lands of Durris, and the lands of Grangehill. The ruins of

the Priory, says Rhind in his admirable Sketches of Moray, are situated six miles south-west of Elgin, in a secluded valley formed by two hills running nearly parallel to each other—the Heldon on the north, and the Kellas hills on the south. The soil is extremely fertile, and is watered by a small stream, the Lochty, now called the Black Burn, which flows eastward through the centre to join the Lossie. The perfect solitude of this glen, its sunny aspect to the south, and its sheltered position from the north, render it peculiarly suited to the purpose for which, by the discriminating taste of the first settlers, it was appropriated. After the model of all similar establishments of the time, the church, constituting the central or principal edifice, is built in the form of a cross. The altar stood before the window of the choir, fronting the east; and there are aisles on each side, with a chapter-house of an octagonal form, supported by a central arch. In its general outline, the Priory resembles very much the Abbey of Melrose, only it is of much smaller dimensions, and less profusely or gorgeously ornamented. Indeed, there is a chaste plainness, joined to a perfect simplicity and symmetry of architecture, which produces a no less pleasing effect, though of a different kind from that celebrated ruin. The walls, though unroofed, are almost entire, and in good preservation. The centre of the church rose in the form of a square tower; the transept extended on the east side; to the south were dwellings of the brotherhood, and behind were the cloisters or covered piazzas. On the arch leading from the body of the church to the choir, are still seen the remains of paintings with

which the walls were ornamented, consisting of delineations of the moon and stars, and part of a figure, supposed to be one of the apostles. From some appearances in the walls, it is evident that the original plan of the building was intended to be on a larger scale; for we find that several windows have been made of a large size, and afterwards greatly contracted, and a wide arch or gateway on the west side is entirely built up. Still, the harmonious proportions of the whole are not disturbed. The beautiful and compact sandstone of the neighbourhood has formed the materials of the building, and has, from its composition, well resisted the long continued action of the elements. A hoary covering of lichens and mosses now imparts to the whole a soft and mellowed beauty; and it is doubtful whether it does not now present a more light and picturesque object of contemplation than when in its entire and pristine grandeur. It is now more assimilated in character with the enduring objects of nature around, to which are added the associations which fancy never fails to throw around the relics of long forgotten ages. The refectory or dining-room, the kitchen, dormitories, and other apartments of the monks, are in buildings to the south of the church. A small room, called the Prior's Study, is also pointed out; and the whole is surrounded by a garden and high wall. The enclosure also contained the gardens, the burial ground, the mill for grinding the monks' grain; and the other offices connected with such an establishment were placed on the banks of the small burn which flows past the precincts. The dormitory, which was several years ago roofed in and the walls

and windows repaired in the same style as the original building, was on the second floor, at the south-east end of the church, and under it was an arched kitchen. The latter has been fitted up as a place of public worship for the inhabitants of the vale. Every attention is paid by the Earl of Fife, the proprietor, to preserve these relics from further decay ; and the shrubberies and walks near the Abbey, and the plantations adjacent, add greatly to their beauty and interest.

In 1783, Dr James Hay, minister of Elgin, bequeathed to the ministers and kirk session of Elgin £100 “for a preacher in Pluscarden.” The interest of this mortification was annually paid to the missionary in connection with the Church of Scotland up to the year 1843 ; but the then incumbent having seceded from the church, and no successor having been appointed, it has since accumulated in the hands of the Kirk Session. Public worship has, however, been conducted in the Abbey since the Disruption, by a Free Church minister, regularly ordained to the charge.



SPYNIE PALACE.

THE Palace of Spynie is situated on the west side of the Morayshire Railway, about three miles north of Elgin, on the south side of the ancient lake, where the water had been deepest. The first erection at Spynie is generally supposed to have taken place soon after the death of Bishop Brictius in 1222, but it must have been a place of considerable importance during the episcopate of Bishop Richard, who died in 1203, and was buried at the Bishop's Palace of Spynie. The

buildings formed a square of nearly forty yards, a high wall surrounded the whole, and a noble gateway formed the entrance to the east. Over the gateway are carved the arms of Bishop John Innes, in whose time (about 1406) it was most probably built. The square tower to the south-west, now forming the chief part of the ruins, was built by Bishop David Stewart between 1461 and 1475. Hence it bears the name of "Davie's Tower." This bishop having a feud with the Earl of Huntly, laid him under ecclesiastical censure, which so provoked the Gordons, that they threatened to pull the prelate from his pigeon holes, meaning the small rooms of the old building. The bishop is said to have replied that he would soon build a house out of which the Earl and all his clan should not be able to pull him. This tower certainly does great credit to "Davie's" notions of comfort and magnificence, if not to his architectural taste. It was sixty feet long, thirty-six feet wide, and about sixty feet high. The walls are nine feet thick, and the windows of ample size, considering the fashion of the time. Below were vaulted rooms. Above them four spacious state apartments and bedrooms, with vaulted closets, succeeded. The roof was also vaulted over, and surmounted by a cape-house with surrounding battlements ; and a winding stair led to the top. The plaster of the walls still remains pretty entire ; and when covered with tapestry and oaken pannels, according to the munificence of the times, must have formed very stately apartments. The arms of Bishops David and Andrew Stewart, and those of Patrick Hepburn, are carved on the south wall of this tower. The other

three corners of the quadrangle had also small turrets. In the south side of the area was a spacious tennis court, and parallel to it in the inside a chapel. On the north side were bedrooms and cellars, and on the east stables. Around the court and precincts were gardens well supplied with fruit trees. After the Reformation, the Episcopal bishops then appointed resided in this Palace.

The Castle of Spynie was considered a safe retreat in troublous times ; and when Montrose came down through Moray after the battle of Inverlochy, “ charging all men betwixt sixty and sixteen to rise and serve the King,” the laird of Innes fled to Spynie, and the county and townspeople readily followed his example, with their wives, bairns, and best goods which they could get carried. In 1590 the Castle and lands were formed into a lordship and given to Sir Alexander Lindsay, with the title of Lord Spynie. He died from the effects of eleven wounds inflicted on him in a street brawl in Edinburgh. The third Lord of Spynie died in 1670 without issue, and the lands reverted to the Crown. They were afterwards granted to Douglas of Spynie, and subsequently passed through several hands until they reached those of the Earl of Fife, the present proprietor. The Palace and a small portion of the grounds, which formerly pertained to the Crown, have lately been acquired by the Earl of Fife. A cottage has been built for a keeper, whose duty it is to look after the ruins and the property belonging to it ; but everything that would lift or burn was carried away from it long before this wise precaution was thought of.

MICHAEL KIRK.

THE Michael Kirk is situated in the parish of Drainie, on a rising ground covered with trees, about half-a-mile east of the mansion house of Gordonstown. It is an interesting building, erected as a mausoleum for the Altyre and Gordonstown family, of a simple well proportioned Gothic character, having at either end a large unglazed window, and now partly yielding to decay. The interior is plain and unornamented, save by one or two monumental slabs that rest upon its walls. Sir Robert Gordon, the Wizard, died in 1701, and the Michael Kirk was erected as a mausoleum for him in 1705. This tomb was built from the ruins of the old church of Ogston, over the family vault which in days long gone by was in the ancient edifice. At what time Ogston church had fallen, or whether it was taken down to build the Michael Kirk, is unknown, but the parishes of Kinneddar and Ogston were united in 1666, about which time it was likely abandoned for the newer one of Drainie or Duffus; but the small burying ground is still used by several families in the parish, and the ancient cross, dilapidated and weather-worn, still stands near its centre, a striking memento of days and customs long gone by. The Michael Kirk contains the mortal remains of a race of Sutherlands, Gordons, and of the family of Altyre. In April, 1866, it received the remains of the dauntless African Nimrod, Roualeyn Gordon Cumming; and five months afterwards his illustrious brother, the third baronet of Altyre, was

interred within its hoary walls. A beautifully executed monument by Goodwillie, Elgin, was erected in 1858 to the memory of Sir W. G. G. Cumming, Bart. of Altyre and Gordonstown. It is of the Grecian Corinthian order, surmounted with the family arms, and supported by richly carved capitals.

OLD CASTLE OF DUFFUS.

THIS old Castle, in the parish of Duffus, stands on the margin of the Loch of Spynie, about four miles north of Elgin. It was built on an artificial mound, and surrounded by a deep ditch. Freskinus de Moravia is supposed to have been its founder. It was a square tower about forty feet high and five feet thick, with parapet, ditch, drawbridge, and other appendages of a fortified baronial residence. The walls are still comparatively entire on the west side, having been built with run lime ; and it appears to have been a place of considerable strength as well as importance, having been partly surrounded by the lake of Spynie, and no place within several miles having sufficient elevation to command it. Its orchard and garden are still in preservation, but the Castle itself has long ceased to be occupied. A part of the mount on the northern side, having slipped down into the ditch, a whole chamber

was thereby overturned entire, so that one of its sides now occupies the position of the floor. An old woman of the parish, who survived the year 1760, related that she was a servant in the Castle, and remembered to have waited on the company at table, when Lord Dundee, the celebrated Claverhouse, was a guest, about the year 1689; that she brought the claret to the table from the cask in a timber stoup (a jar, the workmanship of the cooper), which was drunk from a silver cup. She said the Viscount was a swarthy little man, with lively keen eyes, his hair black, verging towards gray, having a lock covering each ear, rolled up on a slip of lead, twisted together at its ends.

CASTLE-ROY, ABERNETHY.

THE ruins of Castle-Roy are situated about four miles from Grantown, to the south of the railway, and near the church of Abernethy. It was an outpost of the powerful Comyns; and is a quadrangular building, between twenty and thirty yards in the side, defended, like most of its class, by two square towers, and entered by a high-pointed Norman arched gateway, with a vault near the western corner. It stands upon a rising ground, and commands an extensive prospect; but even garrulous tradition is unable to utter a word on its history.

ROTHES CASTLE.

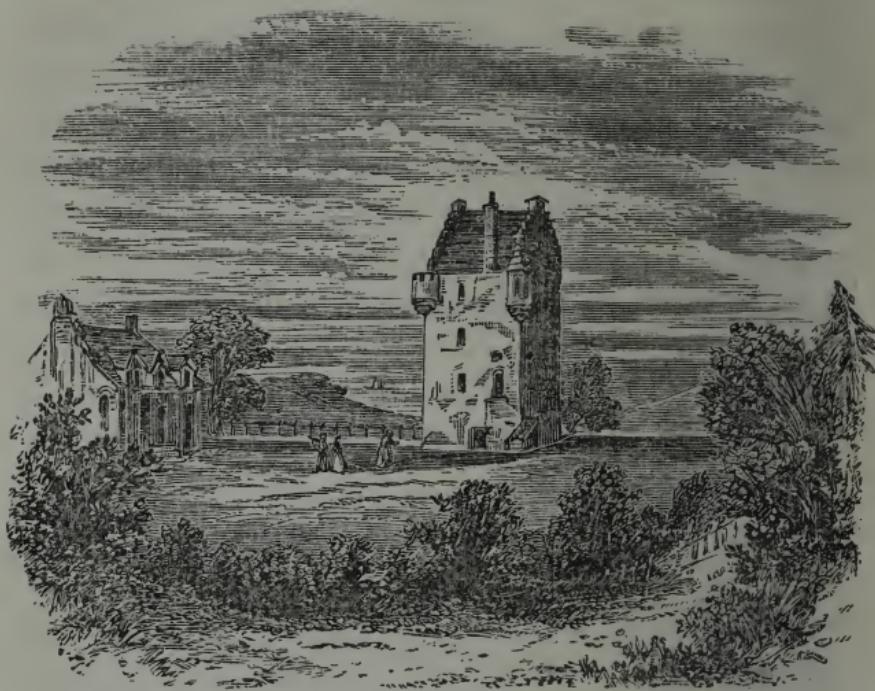
IN the immediate vicinity of the village of Rothes stand the ruins of the fortalice of Rothes. This was one of the most ancient castles in the country ; but the time of its erection is uncertain—probably about the middle of the fifteenth century. It stands on the top of a round and precipitous-faced hill on the north-west side of the vale, and the neck of land that connects its site with the fields had been cut by a ditch and crossed by a drawbridge. The space occupied by this fortalice was pretty large, as the inequalities of the surface covering the ruins sufficiently indicate. The keep of the Castle was several storeys high, and vaulted to the top. A number of lower buildings had been connected with it, and the whole enclosed by a lofty wall, a portion of which is the only remnant of this ancient fort, and seems to call remembrance to the warlike character of our ancestors. About half-a-century ago, many of the stones of the ruin were removed to assist in building some of the houses in the village. When it ceased to be inhabited by the Leslies, we have not been able to ascertain, but a discharge granted by the Earl was dated at the Castle in the year 1620. About 1700 it was purchased by Grant of Elchies, and in 1758 it passed into the hands of the Earl of Findlater, and is now the property of the Earl of Seafield. It was burned down by the country people upwards of 150 years ago, to prevent thieves from harbouring in it.

The barony of Rothes belonged in the twelfth and part of the thirteenth centuries to a family of the name

of Pollock. Muriel de Pollock, daughter of Peter de Pollock, Lord of Rothes, built an hospital for the entertainment of strangers, near Boat of Bridge. This hospital was dedicated to St Nicholas. Eva de Murthac, the daughter of Muriel, made a grant of the estate of Inverlochtie to the see of Moray. This lady married a knight of the name of Watson, and their daughter married, in 1286, Sir Norman Leslie of Garioch, whose name the Rothes family still bears.

MUCKERACH CASTLE.

THE old Castle of Muckerach stands on the left bank of the river Dulnain, west of the Highland Railway, three miles above Grantown. It is rather a picturesque ruin, and is beautifully situated on the edge of a little dell ; but as it was only a castellated mansion, and never possessed the characteristic thickness of the walls of the old castles, so it is now greatly dilapidated, and the roof entirely fallen in. It was the first possession of the Grants of Rothiemurchus, and was built in 1598 by Patrick Grant, second son of John Grant of Freuchy, fourteenth laird of Grant. To this son the laird of Grant gave a feu-charter on the lands of Muckerach ; but on his subsequently acquiring the lands of Rothiemurchus, he gave them to his son and redeemed Muckerach. There is still a stone forming a lintel of a door at the Dell, said to have been brought from Muckerach when the Grants left it. It bears the Rothiemurchus arms, and the motto, “ In God is all my traist,” with the initials P. G., and date 1598.



COXTON TOWER.

COXTON TOWER stands within half-a-mile of Lhanbryd Railway Station, near Elgin. In this conspicuous and picturesque building, which has hitherto received but little notice, we possess one of the most interesting and curious towers to be found perhaps in Scotland. It is built entirely of stone, roof and all, and has evidently been an old fortified place, probably of the sixteenth century, possessing much strength. Its general aspect is that of one of the old border towers,

but without any walled or enclosed court-yard. When erected, it was entirely fire-proof ; and excepting its two external doors, which were backed by massive gates of cross-barred iron, no wood whatever was used in the whole building. The same fire-proof construction is applied even to the covered turrets at the angles. “When we consider that every floor is a heavy semicircular stone vault, the absence of external buttresses naturally forces itself upon our observation. No defect, however, has resulted from this, for by an admirable contrivance they are rendered unnecessary—the floors are vaulted at opposite angles. Thus, if the sides of the lower-room arch stand east and west, those of the arch immediately above are north and south, and so they keep alternating. By this simple arrangement, the weight of one floor or vault acts as a counterpoise to the arch beneath ; and the efficiency of this construction is evinced by the state of the building. Not a crack is visible ; and we predict that, until the stone disintegrates, the Castle will stand. Within the rooms is a singular provision for communication, perfectly independent of the staircase. In the centre of each floor is a square stone, fitted into a groove. These stones, when lifted up, show an opening from the summit to the base of the tower, and by the aid of a rope and pulley the requirements of its inmates might be attended to, and all the inconveniences of carriage up the narrow staircase avoided.”

The lowest floor on the ground level is entered by a narrow door and two descending steps ; but the masonry around it is modern, so that the original mode of fastening the door cannot now be ascertained—that is,

whether it was fastened by bars and bolts from without or from within. A modern outside stair, in very bad taste, has been erected to the entrance door on the second floor, which must previously have been only approached by a ladder. The entrance is on the south front, and over it is a large tablet with armorial bearings, and the initials “R. I. A. I.” at the top ; and the letters “I. R. K. G.” at the base, with the date “1644.” The south and west elevations, though simple and unornamented, have considerable character, the corballed turret at the south-west angle being particularly picturesque. The windows are few and far between, some of them having shot-holes underneath, for arrows or musketry. There are no openings on the walls on the north and east fronts. The gables on the east and west walls are of the usual Scottish crow-stepped character. There is a mound or hill on either side of the Tower. The one is called the Doohill and the other the Gallowhill—a name that sufficiently tells its own tale, and is so situated that a culprit dangling from a pole upon it would have been seen over the whole estate. Of the share taken by the Inneses of Coxton in vindicating the feudal right of pot and gallows there can be no doubt, for tradition is unanimous in awarding the “burly lairds of Coxton” full credit for the alacrity with which they detected criminals, and the promptitude with which they administered the law upon them. When the hill was being planted, a number of skulls and human bones were found, which would seem to have been those of the unfortunates who ended their days on the Coxton cord.

BLERVIE TOWER.

ON the height immediately north of the Manse of Rafford, about three miles south-east of Forres, stand the remains of the ancient Castle of Blervie, the seat of a branch of the once powerful family of the Dunbars. Its name, some centuries ago, was written Blare ; and it has subsequently undergone the various alterations of Blarie, Blarvie, Blairvie, and Blervie. It consisted of an oblong building, with a square tower at its west corner. In one of the angles between these a spiral stair led up to the top of the tower. Over the fire-place of the old hall is the date 1398. The tower, of five storeys, and the staircase, are now all that remain. The principal part of the building was taken down to build the present house of Blervie. At the height of a few feet from the ground, a breach of about a foot was made all round in the building, and its place filled with turf and other combustibles. The latter were then set on fire and consumed ; but such was the strength of the old masonry, that the large pile of building, attached but by one corner to the tower, stood for three hours afterwards without falling. Although at one period the whole district of Moray belonged to the Dunbars, there is no tradition respecting the family of Blervie. The property about the beginning of the last century was purchased by Alexander Mackintosh, who was "Laird of Blairie" in 1713 and 1724. From him it was purchased by William, Earl of Fife, and is now the property of Mr Grant Duff, M.P. for the Elgin Burghs.

CASTLE OF BURGIE.

BURGIE CASTLE is situated on the south side of the turnpike road, about four miles east of Forres. "It has several architectural peculiarities worth being preserved, among others, a perfect horizontal railing of rain-spouts, which must have given it a peculiarly formidable aspect to those whose imagination or ignorance made them believe they were the actual wall-pieces of which they are an imitation. The history of this old stronghold, except as to the mere name and genealogy of its proprietor, is almost a pure blank. It was of old called Burgin. Under this title it occasionally appears in the collection of documents connected with the See of Moray, called the Registrum Moravense. The domain was at one time attached to the neighbouring Abbey of Kinloss, and passed into private hands through a process of lay impropriation. The estate came to the Dunbars by Katherine Reid, niece of the last Abbot of Kinloss, who was married to Alexander Dunbar, first laird of Burgie of that name. The estate now belongs to the trustees of the late Robert Tulloch, Esq. The date "1602 zeiris," with the family armorial bearings, and the initials of the laird and lady of that day, are carved on the mantel of what was the great hall. To the Castle a more commodious house was added in 1702; but along with the original great hall, it was taken down in 1802 to build the present mansion-house. The strength of the building was such, that the detaching of the stone from the mortar or lime cost more than the quarrying of new materials would have done. A square tower similar to that of Blervie, but more elegant, still remains.

CASTLE OF DUNPHAIL.

THE ruins of this Castle stand near the banks of the Divie, a short distance above its confluence with the Findhorn, in the parish of Edinkillie, on the west of the Highland Railway, about six miles south of Forres. At one time it was a fortress of considerable importance, though little can be learned either from history or tradition respecting it. Its ruins occupy nearly the whole of the summit of a steep conical hill, only accessible by one side, with a deep narrow ravine, of a very romantic description, encompassing three-fourths of its base, which is supposed to have been in ancient times the channel of the Divie, though its present course is sixty feet lower, and 150 yards to the west. After the battle of "The Lost Standard," the Castle was besieged by Randolph Earl of Moray, the first Regent of Scotland during the minority of David Bruce, and gallantly defended by Cumin, the proprietor. In the course of that siege, some incidents occurred characteristic at once of the bravery and barbarity of the age. Allastair Bane, son of Cumin, a man who had distinguished himself by extraordinary deeds of valour, being no longer able to cope with the enemy in open combat, after a dreadful slaughter of his followers in the engagement above alluded to, had recourse to embuscade and stratagem to harass the besieging party, and to supply his father's garrison with provisions. At length the place of his concealment was discovered, which was a deep cavern in a wild narrow glen, about half-a-mile from the Castle, where he was taken by surprise

and murdered. His head was then cut off and thrown into the fortress, with this terrible taunt to the old man, “Your son has provided you with meal, and we now send you flesh to eat with it.” “It is a bitter morsel, indeed,” said the veteran warrior, as he took it up, kissed it, and wept over it, “but I will gnaw the last bone of it before I surrender!” The Castle and estate of Dunphail some time afterwards became the property of Mr Dunbar, and now belongs to Major Cumming Bruce, M.P.

LOCHINDORB CASTLE.

THE Castle of Lochindorb is situated on the confines of the parishes of Cromdale and Edinkillie, three miles west of the Dava Station of the Highland Railway, on an island in the middle of a loch which is two miles long and half-a-mile broad. The Castle was originally one of those fortified retreats that meet us in several parts of this county, and was one of the strongholds of the Comyn. In what was probably the original peel, or Castle, we find John Comyn, one of the most powerful men of the age, and a competitor for the Crown, seeking repose from political agitation, and dying at the close of the thirteenth century. Tytler is of opinion that Edward I. added to the fortifications of the original Castle ; while others infer from the style of the building that it had been wholly erected by him. The island on which the ruins stand is rather more than a

Scotch acre in extent ; and as it is wholly covered by the ruins, the walls seem to start up from the deep water by which they are surrounded. The walls, which now rise to the height of twenty feet, have a yellow tint imparted to them by the encrusting lichens. They have been built of the granite of the neighbouring hills ; but the lintels, facings, and mouldings, are of freestone, which must have been brought from a distance. The principal gateway is a pointed arch, and has had a portcullis, which was carried to Cawdor Castle. The curtain walls are still tolerably entire, except on the side on which the chapel stood. The walls were flanked at their four corners with circular towers. Within the enclosed area is the keep, a large quadrangular building, with a round tower at one end. In the last century “several vestiges of houses were seen within its walls, but the surface of the court is now so covered with rubbish and overgrown with weeds that it is difficult to trace their foundations.” It was on the 25th September, 1303, that Edward I. arrived from Kinloss at Lochindorb, with the object of carrying the war into the heart of the country of the Comyns, whose chief was still in arms against him. How he got possession of it we have not learned ; but here he remained a considerable time, enjoying the chase, in the forest that once spread over the district now so desolate, sending forth parties to overrun Badenoch, and receiving the homage of those who hated him at heart. When the possessions of the Comyns passed into the hands of the famous Alexander Stewart, who, from his ferocious disposition, was surnamed the Wolfe of Badenoch, he occupied the Castle of Lochindorb ;

and it was from this residence that he is supposed to have made his memorable descent on the Laird of Moray, and burned the celebrated Cathedral of Elgin, in 1393. In more recent times, it passed from the hands of the Earls of Moray into those of the Campbells of Cawdor, in 1606, and now belongs to the Earl of Seafield.

OLD CHURCH OF ADVIE.

THE Old Church of Advie stands on the south side of the Strathspey Railway, a short distance east of the Advie Station, and is a conspicuous object from the line. It is only fifteen feet broad, and about sixty feet long. The walls are three and a-half feet thick, some six feet high at the sides, while the gables rise to the height of twelve or fifteen feet. Tradition says the church was never roofed, and certainly it has no appearance of having been so. On a stone slab are the letters W. G. and A. G., said to stand for the initials of the builder and his wife, and, beside these letters, is the date 1706, evidently indicating the year in which the church was erected. Around the ruin is the Parish Churchyard of Advie. Across the centre of this churchyard, there is a row of tombstones extending in an unbroken line, all erected to the memory of Grants—Grants of the clan Grant, many of whose ancestors, no doubt lying in the same spot, followed their chief to the field in the days of feudal strife.

COUNTRY RESIDENCES.

* * * * *
“ How beautiful they stand
Amidst their tall ancestral trees,
O'er all the pleasant land.”

ALTYRE HOUSE.

THE scenery along the drive from Forres to the mansion house of Altyre, is one continuous change—from the broad and level valley of St John's Mead, carpeted by a close and downy sward, with trees rising one above another, forming an amphitheatre calm, quiet, and beautiful, to the rugged precipice, with the impetuous Findhorn dashing wildly from ledge to ledge of its rocky sandstone bed. The visitor, after traversing the long avenue of trees, comes so suddenly and unexpectedly upon the mansion house, that it would be difficult to say whether wonder or admiration is his most prominent feeling. The house of Altyre, like many other baronial residences, is not the work of one age, but has been enlarged and improved by succeeding baronets until it is now a large and elegant mansion. Originally the spot where the house now stands was occupied by a shooting lodge of the Cummings of Altyre, who had one house in Forres and another in Edinburgh. On the accession of Sir Alexander Penrose Cumming

in 1795, he built a house in front of this shooting lodge, and lived there occasionally. Sir William Gordon Cumming, his son and successor to the estate, built an east wing to the house; and in 1859 the late Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming added a west wing, and made other extensive additions. The House of Altyre, though thus the work of different proprietors, is not without a uniform design, the two wings being precisely the same. It is in fact a large house, and it would not be easy to find one in a more beautiful situation, or more interesting from the number of fine pictures and curiosities which it contains. The dining-room is decorated around the top with an assortment of magnificent South American buffalo horns. The drawing-room, which is above the dining-room, is an elegant apartment, ornamented with some fine paintings; and on the stair-case leading to it there are pictures well calculated to call forth the admiration of a connoisseur of the fine arts. The lawn is studded here with a noble walnut or ancient oak, and there with a clump of younger but equally appropriate natives of the wood. In front of the house, the more rare specimens of vegetation which owe the gardener's care, form a gradual and graceful transition from the lords of the forest to the splendid flowers that are seen through the conservatory, which forms a part of the front of the building. Miss Sinclair's glowing eulogy is peculiarly appropriate. "The house," she says, "is a perfect cluster of arbours and greenhouses, apparently a home for the Muses and Graces, for pleasure, gaiety, and romance, but never intended for the mere vulgar ordinary purposes of life.

Within, without, and around, you see nothing but flowers rushing in at every window, covering every table, and besetting all the doors. This is the court of Flora herself, and you would suppose we had come to a horticultural show." Inside, the house is scarcely less attractive, and contains a collection of rare and valuable paintings and statuary, unequalled in any family residence in the county. Chief among the family paintings stands the admirable likeness of the late Baronet, Sir Alexander—a noble subject for the painter's brush, and Sir John Watson Gordon has executed his task with exquisite taste. This portrait was the gift of the tenantry on the extensive estates of Altyre, Gordonston, and Dallas, and was presented to Sir Alexander and Lady Cumming in 1860. Other family paintings, the work of the late Lady Cumming and her daughters, adorn the walls. Nor has the mantle of taste and genius deserted the younger olive branches, for the products of Miss Gordon Cumming's brush find an honourable place at the National Exhibitions.

The Cummings or Comyns of Altyre are, according to tradition, descended from Lord John of Badenoch, whose son, the Black Comyn, was governor of Scotland in 1286, and was married to a sister of King John Baliol. There is evidence, from charters in existence, that the family was settled in Altyre as early as the fourteenth century. In 1657, Robert Cumming, the laird of Altyre, married Lucy, eldest daughter of Sir Ludovick Gordon of Gordonston, through whom, on the death of Sir William Gordon in 1795, the estate of Gordonston devolved on Alexander Penrose Cum-

ming of Altyre, who thereupon assumed the name and arms of Gordonston, and was created a Baronet of Great Britain in 1804, and died in 1806. He was succeeded by Sir William Gordon Gordon Cumming, second Baronet of Altyre and Gordonston, who married a daughter of Campbell of Islay, and grand-daughter of the fifth Duke of Argyle. Sir William died in 1854, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming, third Baronet, who was born at Altyre in 1816. In 1845 he married Anne Pitcairn Campbell, only daughter of the Rev. Augustus Campbell, rector of Liverpool. On Sir Alexander's death, which took place at Edinburgh in 1866, the present Baronet, Sir William Gordon Gordon Cumming, succeeded to the titles and estates, he being then in his nineteenth year.

ARNDILLY HOUSE

Is situated on a slightly elevated mound on the southwest side of the hill of Benaigen. In front and on the west the ground slopes gradually downward in gentle undulations to the Spey; while to the east and north, the hill rises more abruptly and the woods become more close, while high over all, stands the scaur-marked head of Benaigen. The house was begun about a century ago, and stands on the site of the old church of Artendoll, which was one of three churches

existing in the parish in early Roman Catholic times. It was a square, unadorned block, with a small court of lower buildings at the back. It remained in this state until the present proprietor several years ago remodelled it, and rendered it a most attractive residence. At the entrance door, which faces the south and commands a landscape of unrivalled beauty, is a splendid entrance porch, corniced and panelled in the roof, and supported by four massive pillars. Semi-octagonal additions have been added to each end, and a large dome-shaped conservatory reared at its western extremity, so that both externally and internally it is a handsome and commanding structure. The entrance hall is large, and adorned with deer's antlers, and furnished with antique chairs. A circular staircase leads to the drawing-room—an elegant, lofty, and well-lighted apartment. A passage through the western window leads to the conservatory, in the centre of which is a water fountain. From the conservatory a balcony is reached, where the fine valley of the Spey can be seen with the greatest effect. An ancient sculptured stone, about two and a-half feet square, is built into the eastern wall of the house. It has "a circular ornament, which is regarded as a mirror, with unknown hieroglyphics, and a figure like the letter Z ornamented at the ends." In the garden three noble beeches stand beside each other, the largest of which is of a uniform circumference of nearly twelve feet for about seventeen feet from the ground, after which it spreads out its huge branches in a circular form, and covers a large space of ground.

ABERLOUR HOUSE.

THE mansion house of Aberlour, the delightful residence of Miss Macpherson Grant, is situated west of Craigellachie, a short distance from the village of Charlestown, and stands upon a commanding position on rising ground overlooking the valley of the Spey. Among the many beautiful sites for a mansion house between the two Craigellachies, there is perhaps not a finer than that of Aberlour, and the natural beauty of the spot has been increased by everything that art can accomplish. It is a massive quadrangular block of building, of the Grecian-Doric order, built of polished freestone. The wings are admirably proportioned to the rest of the building. In front, a magnificent portico is supported on four fluted columns, and the door is guarded by lions couchant, surmounted by the family arms. The interior is in a style of princely grandeur. Having passed the porte-cochere into the house, the visitor finds himself entranced in a gorgeous corridor, studded with Brazilian pillars of marble, and hemmed in by marble walls—this theatre of admiration receiving its finishing touch from curtains of blue embroidered velvet, that mingle their folds with the scene and lend it another air of enchantment. Then comes the handsome staircase, the principal object in connection with which is a full-length portrait of Miss Macpherson Grant on horseback, which is a striking likeness, and of beautiful execution, being the work of the famous artist M. Priolo. Over the portrait are two fine me-

dalions, representing the seasons, and on either side of this is a window of richly stained glass, displaying the family arms in the centre. The staircase in its progress upwards, is beautified by various paintings of historical and pictorial interest and artistic merit. The *chef de œuvre* of the interior, apart from the rooms, is the ceiling over the staircase and entrance hall, the cornicings, panellings, and embellishings of which form altogether a work of the most exquisite beauty and taste. The drawing-room is the most gorgeous, and the taste displayed in the artistic design, like that in the work of the ceiling over the staircase, is admitted to be seldom equalled in these parts of the country. The grounds around the mansion are laid out with great taste, and studded here and there with clumps of Scotch fir, well-trained shrubs, and handsome vases filled with flowers. Two beautiful carriage drives traverse the policies, converging at the house from two points on the road between Charlestown and Craigellachie, and which accommodate the visitor coming or going either way. The entrance to each approach is graced by a handsome porter-lodge—the one on the Craigellachie end is a handsome building of the Grecian order of architecture, that on Charlestown side being a very elegant and showy structure of the Italian style. The garden is in keeping with the house, on a most extensive scale, and filled with plants of the richest and rarest foliage. About a hundred yards in front of the house stands an obelisk, erected in 1839 by Mr Grant, the former proprietor, surmounted by a globe of polished granite, on which are marked the usual meridians and parallels.

AUCHINROATH HOUSE.

THE house of Auchinroath, the property of William Robertson, Esq., is nine miles distant from Elgin, and nearly a mile and a-half north-east from the village of Rothes. It is a plain two-storeyed house, with an extending wing to the back, giving it the form of a T. The front is of rough dressed native granite, and the ends and back wing are harled, imparting to it a very pleasing appearance. In front and on the east end, the plainness is relieved by a painted trellis-work, on which evergreen plants are trained to the height of the first storey. At each end of the house stands a thickly wooded knoll, called East Mount and West Mount, round the base of which, where the trees have been removed, walks are formed and the ground tastefully laid out and planted with shrubs. The garden lies to the left, at the foot of West Mount; and in front of the house is an ornamental lawn, with a croquet green. The estate is not large, but very compact. The higher ground at the south is covered with Scotch firs, and on the steep banks at the northern extremity are plantations of ash, larch, and other trees. The ground descends by a gentle slope from the south to the Glen of Rothes, through which the Morayshire Railway runs, forming a semi-circular boundary to the estate on the north and west. Although the exposure is northern, from which the bleak-looking hill of Brachy is but little shelter, excellent crops of all kinds are raised by the enterprising tenants.

BALLINDALLOCH CASTLE.

THIS Castle, the baronial residence of Sir George Macpherson Grant, Bart., is situated on the banks of "the clear flowing Avon," at a short distance from its confluence with the Spey. It is pronounced by antiquarians to be one of the most perfect specimens of the old Scottish castle north of the Border. The original building consisted of a square block, flanked by two circular towers ; and an aperture in one of them is still pointed out, over the ancient entrance to the Castle, down which boiling lead could be poured upon besiegers, and there is little doubt but that some of them were made to feel it. Large additions have been made by succeeding proprietors, and the Castle now represents a succession of turrets and towers, crow-stepped gables and extending wings, with initialed dormor windows, that give it an air of light, yet massive strength, and mingled modern and antique appearance, at once the most charming and delightful. Over the doorway is the Macpherson-Grant arms, in full relief, finely cut in freestone ; and inscribed on the lintel in old English, "Ye Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in," with "Erected 1546" on one side, and "Restored 1850" on the other. The door itself is in keeping with the tower to which it enters, and is of oak, studded with iron bolts, and opens into a circular lobby, from the top of which a richly-carved pendant hangs ; while the ribs of the intersecting arches are supported by corbels on the

sides in the shape of wild dragons. From this a double set of doors lead to the vestibule, which, were it not so low, would be one of the finest portions of the building. It is supported in the centre by a massive Corinthian pillar, with richly-carved base and capital, from which seven broad carved bands radiate to the surrounding walls. A wide staircase, flanked with massive oak ballustrades, leads to the dining-room, which is richly furnished and adorned with a profusion of valuable family and other paintings. The drawing-room, in the north-west wing of the Castle, is lofty, extensive, and decorated with portraits and paintings. The principal entrance to the grounds is by the gate at the bridge of Avon, the architecture of which is in keeping with that of the Castle. The gate fills the space between the end of the parapet wall of the bridge and a steep rock. It is arched above, the arches springing from two Gothic towers, and over the keystone are the family arms, and the motto—"Touch not the cat bot a glove." The floods of 1829 made sad havoc at Ballindalloch, and Sir Thomas Dick Lauder has graphically described the scene. The garden wall for a time protected the Castle, but at last it gave way, and for twenty-four hours a body of water twenty-five yards wide rushed against the ground storey of the Castle, filling the vaulted passages. The garden was covered four feet deep with sand; a ravine was cut between the Castle and the river bank; the whole shrubbery on the bank was carried away, and 130 acres of the finest land dug into holes or covered with sand and gravel. The flood is said to have cost the proprietor of Ballindalloch more than £8000.

Several of the lairds of Ballindalloch have followed the military profession, and others have devoted themselves to the improvement of their estate. General James Grant defeated Count d'Estaing, conquered St Lucia, and was for many years Governor of Florida. At the time of his death, which took place at Ballindalloch in 1806, he was Governor of Stirling Castle. According to his own directions, his remains were buried in a favourite spot on the farm of the Mains, which commands a view of the Spey and of the Barony of Ballindalloch. A handsome pillar has been erected, bearing a marble slab recording his appointments, and the dates of his birth and death. General Grant was succeeded by George Macpherson Grant, who was created a baronet in 1838. He was an eminent agriculturist, and to him is due the credit of inaugurating the vast improvements which are still being carried out on the estate. He died in 1846, and was succeeded by his son, Sir John Macpherson Grant, who enjoyed the title for a few years only, having died in 1851. The title and estates then devolved on his son, Sir George Macpherson Grant, the present Baronet, when only twelve years of age. Sir George resides principally at Ballindalloch, and devotes a large portion of his time in superintending extensive agricultural improvements, and in encouraging his tenantry to follow his example.

BRODIE CASTLE.

BRODIE CASTLE is situated in the parish of Dyke, three miles west of Forres, on the north side of the Highland Railway—the porter lodge and entrance gate to the Castle communicating with the Brodie Station on that line. The approach is by a long carriage-way through the extensive lawn, bordered on each side by stately beeches. The mansion is a large, irregular, castellated building, the older portion having originally been a fortified residence of considerable strength.

On the south-east side of this fortified tower is the principal entrance, and close beside it, about seven or eight feet from the ground, springs a round tower, having four small windows, and topped by a steep slated spire and vane. The wall at the west side of the door is pierced with circular port-holes for arrows, and has been intended to guard the entrance, while overhead, both on the south and north walls, are battlements, flanked with turrets at the corners. Through these battlements, like miniature cannons, is a row of freestone rain-spouts, similar to those on other fortified residences of the period. The extensive additions made by the present proprietor are in the old English style of architecture, though the crow-stepped gable and dormer initialed window of the Scottish castellated style occasionally appear. Part of the old building on the south side has been considerably modernised, the windows greatly enlarged and improved, and a ballustrade of polished freestone placed on each side of the entrance. Over the door are the initials W. B. and E. L. B., with date 1846. To the right of the doorway are

the Brodie arms—two nude bearded figures with laurel wreath round head and waist, and carrying clubs, support the family shield ; on either side of the shield are the initials W. B., E. B. The crest is a right hand grasping three arrows. On a scroll underneath is the motto “ *Unite.* ” The east elevation is entirely modern, and looks into the pleasure ground, while the dullness of the blue and red granite is greatly relieved by the freestone lintels, cornices, and window mouldings. The large bay window, rising three storeys high, is capped by a crow-stepped gable, and over the other windows are massive high pointed arches of the old English style. From the north corner of this part of the building a short one-storey wing runs eastward. One of similar proportions extends from the old tower northwards, terminating in an octagonal porch, and forms a prominent feature in the western elevation of the Castle. At the west end of the grounds is a large artificial pond, bordered with shrubs and a fine walk. East of the Castle lie the pleasure grounds and garden, to which a few years ago an elegant greenhouse, fitted up and heated on the most approved principles, was added. At the north end of the park stands an obelisk about six feet high, in the form of a parallelogram. It was found when the parish church of Dyke was being built, and transferred from thence to the grounds at Brodie. It is supposed to commemorate Rodney’s victory over the Count de Grasse, and although an elaborately carved cross, and some rudely sculptured animals are seen, no inscription can be traced upon it.

According to Shaw, the family of Brodie originally sprung from the Moravienses, and were the first pos-

sessors of the estate, Malcolm IV. having given them the lands about the year 1160, when he transplanted the Moray rebels. Lord Gordon burned Brodie House in 1645, and destroyed the family writings, yet the family descents may be traced for about 500 years. Alexander, the ninth laird of Brodie, died in 1627, and left six sons, who acquired considerable property in the county. Alexander, the second son, purchased the lands of Lethen, Kinloss, and Pitgaveny ; John was Dean of Moray ; Joseph, the fourth son, was minister of Forres, and purchased the lands of Main, near Elgin ; Francis, the fifth son, purchased the lands of Milton, which his grandson subsequently sold to Lord Braco ; William, the sixth son, was proprietor of Coltfield, which soon afterwards reverted to the house of Brodie. David, the tenth laird, had two sons—Alexander, who succeeded him, and Joseph of Asleisk. This Joseph was father of George who succeeded to Brodie, and of James of Whitehill, who purchased Coltfield and Spynie. Alexander, the eleventh in descent, was a man of eminent piety and prudence, and was twice chosen a Lord of Session. He was one of the Commissioners who were sent to treat with Charles II., at the Hague and at Breda. He died in 1679 ; and his son having died without male issue, George of Asleisk succeeded to the paternal estate. The male issue of the Asleisk branch having become extinct, the estate devolved on James, son of James Brodie of Spynie. He married Lady Margaret Duff, daughter of the Earl of Fife. Their eldest son was accidentally drowned in India, leaving a son, William Brodie, who on the death of his grandfather, succeeded to the estates.

BURGIE HOUSE.

THE mansion house of Burgie—four miles east of Forres, and about two south-east from the Kinloss Station of the Highland Railway—is erected on a picturesque plateau on the Hill of Burgie. It is a well proportioned house of three storeys, built of rough dressed granite, partly quarried upon the estate and partly taken from the walls of the Old Castle. A broad flight of steps leads to the entrance door, over which is a massive portico, supported on four circular pillars of polished freestone. A cross wing, with connecting corridor, is built at each end, projecting several feet beyond the front of the house, the gable walls of which, instead of being sloped with the roof, are built up nearly to the height of the centre building, and over the window is a solid freestone arch, imparting to the southern elevation of the house a more massive and elegant appearance. Except on the north side, the ground rises nearly the height of the first storey, but a retaining wall, with paved passage four or five feet wide, leads all round the building to prevent damp on the ground flat. In the foreground are tastefully arranged flower plots and shrubberies, and a large ornamental park, with the Home Farm of Burgie on the west, and the garden to the east. In the garden stand the remains of the Old Castle, its hoary walls towering high above the ancient trees by which it is surrounded. A few feet from the castle wall on the south side is the old draw-well, covered with a large circular stone, having a hole cut in the centre, through which, at a great depth, the sparkling water may be seen.

BLACKHILLS HOUSE

Is a neat compact shooting lodge, the property of the Earl of Fife, and leased to David Maxwell, Esq., and is built on a commanding position about six miles south-east of Elgin. The road leading to it strikes off from the Orton Road, a short distance above Coxton Tower. It is a square two storey house, with projecting cottage roof; and though a chaste and well proportioned building, is almost devoid of ornament. The entrance door is on the south side, and the front is nearly covered with climbing roses on trellis-work. On the north side, overlooking the flower garden, is a large bay window, rising to the height of both storeys, from which an extensive prospect to east and west may be had, while to the north the expansive plain in the parishes of St Andrews and Drainie, with the Moray Frith and the Sutherland and Caithness hills beyond, forms a very pleasing landscape. The kitchen garden lies to the west, protected on the north by a high stone wall and a line of beech and plane trees. In the garden is a large pear tree which has borne fruit for at least three hundred summers, and has still a fresh and vigorous appearance. At the south-west corner of the house is a conical mound, on which stands an old square watch-tower, now almost in ruins. A door on the north side on the second storey led to a raised platform, from which one of the former proprietors amused himself by occasionally firing a small piece of ordnance. In front of the house is an ornamental lawn, with croquet green, beyond which the farm steading is seen peering through the trees.

CASTLE GRANT

STANDS about two miles from the village of Grantown. The principal entrance to the beautiful park and grounds is at the north-west, guarded by a porter lodge and ornamented archway, in the old Scottish baronial style, and is built of the grey granite of the district. The conical turrets of the lodge and the battlemented turrets of the gateway have an excellent effect. A few hundred yards farther to the north is another lodge, in the same style of architecture, erected in 1864 by the Highland Railway Company, in acknowledgment of the great facilities given by the Earl of Seafield in the formation of the railway through his estates. This lodge is so constructed that access can be had to the trains by a door on the second storey, leading to a platform erected for the use of the noble Earl. The Castle, although built on the front of a high terrace, is so concealed amid deep forests of pine, oak, elm, and chestnut, that only the upper part of the tower and the waving flag from its summit can be seen by the tourist while passing in the train. The general appearance of the Castle, with its forest of windows and crow-stepped gables, is that of a massive quadrangular building. The principal entrance is on the north side ; but the south front, rising to the height of four storeys, is the most modern part, while the picturesque tower, that bears the name of the Comyn, is probably the only original part of the building. It was standing there, perhaps, more than

five hundred years ago, when the Grants became Lords of Strathspey, and took the place of the Comyns, who at one time ruled supreme from Lochaber to Lower Craigellachie. "Looking at this tower calls to mind the greatest family in the north, and the rude ages in which might was right among a turbulent and warlike nobility, who had power of life and death over their retainers, and defied the kings of Scotland with impunity. The Comyns were in the north what the Douglases were in the south, and the great tower has echoed with boisterous mirth after victorious raids, and resounded with the songs of bards that told in rhyme the daring deeds of the clansmen. The entrance hall of the Castle may be called an armoury, for in it are to be seen broadswords and targets wielded by lairds of Grant, and a musket and bayonet bearing the date 1434, and an inscription showing that the owner was a Sir John Grant, Sheriff-Principal of Inverness, the eighth in descent from Gregory de Grant, who was sheriff of the same county in the reign of Alexander II. in the middle of the thirteenth century. The top of the hall is adorned by a rozette of spears—the arms of the Strathspey Fencibles—not toys or imitations, but the genuine Scotch spear that many a day defied the hosts of England, as sung by Sir Walter Scott—

‘The stubborn spearmen still made good
Their dark impenetrable wood,
Each stepping where his comrade stood
The moment that he fell.’

This is the kind of spear that ornaments the roof of the entrance hall of Castle Grant, and well does it

become such spears to be there, when Sir John Grant commanded in the right wing of a battalion in the battle of Halidon Hill, in 1333, and when his father stood side by side with Wallace fighting for the independence of his country.” In the reign of George III. the then laird of Grant raised a regiment called the Grant Fencibles. This body of men was so numerous that seventy were discharged as supernumeraries. Sir James raised another body which, after being inspected at Elgin, was embodied as the 97th regiment. In 1795 the officers and men were drafted into other regiments, and the two flank companies joined the 42d when preparing to embark for the West Indies. The paintings in the Castle are numerous and valuable. The walls in the dining-room, a large and elegant apartment, are covered with family portraits, said to be excellent likenesses of the lairds of Grant and of the representatives of various distinguished branches of the clan. Among these is a portrait of Sir Robert Grant of Lurg, surnamed Stachcan the Stubborn, “a fierce, white-bearded fellow, with bonnet and plaid; and one cannot but smile at the searching glance of the eye, and the *scientific* turn of the hand in drawing his pistol, when we contrast our safety with the coolness with which we feel he could have brought down his man.” There are many valuable paintings in the house by Vandyke, Guido, Rubens, Poussin, and others, such as the Virgin presenting her Child; the aged Simeon; the Marriage of Joseph and Mary; the Adoration of the Wise Men of the East; the Landing of Æneas in Africa, and Dido fleeing with him from the Storm; but the Death of Patroclus, by Hamilton, is considered

the best in the collection. Ascending a flight of 144 stone steps, the roof of the Castle is reached. The eye glances over some gently-sloping enclosures, enlivened by groups of deer, till passing over the wide-spread woods it sweeps with eagle flight across the wide valley of the Spey and the endless forests of Abernethy, and rests with joy and a feeling of freedom on the blue chain of the Cairngorm Mountains, rising vast and huge above those minor dependent hills that are congregated about their base. Everything within and without denotes the habitation of a chieftain, and brings to remembrance those days in which the head of every tribe was surrounded by his own clan. His castle was their fortress ; his approbation was their pride ; his protection was both their duty and their interest. In his safety their own fate was involved ; in his hall stood the board to which they were always welcome ; there he sat with all the feelings of a father in the midst of his children ; he acted as their general in the day of battle, their judge in the time of peace, and was at all times their friend.

The ancient name of Castle Grant was Freuchie, and the present family, ennobled as Earls of Seafield and Barons of Strathspey, have held rule since the thirteenth century. Previously, these regions were all under the powerful sway of the Cumings or Comyns, from whom they lapsed to the Crown, and thence to the Grants. Their name (le Grand) betokens their Norman or Flemish origin. Gregory de Grant held the high office of Sheriff of Inverness under Alexander II. in the early half of the 13th century. His grandson, John de Freuchie, was a contemporary of Wallace,

and a sharer in his victories and reverses, having been for some time kept prisoner in London by Edward I. His son, Sir John Grant, took a prominent lead in the army raised by the Scots for the relief of Berwick when besieged by Edward III. in 1333. The immediate descendant of this same personage was one of the three leading men sent from this country to France in 1359 to renew the ancient league with that country ; and there is also still extant a copy of safe conducts from the King of England to John Grant, knight, and his spouse, to travel into that kingdom, “ with ten servants to attend them.” Sir Duncan de Grant, the eighth in descent from Gregory, is, in a charter which passed the great seal in 1442, named “ Dominus de eodem, and de Freuchie,” being the first so styled. The succeeding heads of the family were all persons of more than common ability, and in their day held important posts in the country. John, the fourteenth in descent, was offered a patent of nobility in 1610 by King James VI. He, however, declined the honour, preferring rather to be “ Laird of Grant,” an honour which had then existed for four hundred years, than be the holder of a modern peerage. This same chief made large additions to the estates, getting charters of the lands of Abernethy, of the Auchroisks, and of the lands of “ Auld Castle,” now Castle Grant. His successor was equally able and equally fortunate, getting charters of the lands of Mulben, Rothiemurchus, &c. During the troublous times of Charles I. and James II., the clan and its head for the most part, even at first, favoured, and latterly warmly espoused, the popular cause. Ludovick Grant, the sixteenth chief, raised a regiment

from among his clan, and with it joined Colonel Livingston in the battle on the Haugh of Cromdale. His son Alexander attained the rank of a Brigadier-General in the army, and was of great service to the Government in 1715. He was also Sheriff of Inverness-shire, and Lord-Lieutenant of that county, as well as of Moray. Alexander died in 1719, and was succeeded by his brother James, in whose person the chieftainship had added to it a baronetcy in 1704.

Sir James Grant of Grant, Bart., was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant. This Baronet had by his first wife a daughter, who did not survive. His second wife was Lady Margaret Ogilvie, eldest daughter of James, fifth Earl of Findlater, and second Earl of Seafield, and this marriage was the means of conferring new honours on the head of the house of Grant. The Earl of Findlater and Seafield just named had a son and two daughters. The son, succeeding him, married, and had two sons, of whom only one survived. He dying unmarried, his estates and the Seafield earldom went to the children of his father's eldest sister, the Lady Margaret, who, as just noticed, had married Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant. This lady brought to her husband, besides several daughters, one son, who became Sir James Grant of Grant, generally known as "the good Sir James," and who for some years represented Banffshire, and afterwards Elginshire, in Parliament. He married in 1733 Jean, only child of Alexander Duff of Hatton, and niece of the Earl of Fife, and by her had a family of seven sons, the eldest of whom succeeded to the chieftainship, and also (on the death of

his cousin) to the Seafield earldom. Dying unmarried in 1840, the family honours descended to his brother, Colonel the Hon. Francis William Grant, who was Member of Parliament for the county of Moray and Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Inverness. He was succeeded in 1853 by his son John Charles, the present Peer, and twenty-sixth in descent, who in 1858 was created Baron Strathspey of Strathspey, in the peerage of the United Kingdom. In October, 1850, he married the Hon. Caroline Stuart, youngest daughter of the late Lord Blantyre, by which union the house of Seafield is connected with the ducal families of Sutherland, Argyll, and Leinster. The Earl's only son, Ian Charles, Viscount Reidhaven, Master of Grant, was born at Edinburgh on the 7th October, 1851.

CARRON HOUSE.

THE mansion house of Carron, the residence of William Grant, Esq. of Wester Elchies, is situated about three miles from Aberlour, on a beautiful haugh between the river Spey and the railway. It is so embowered among the trees as scarcely to be seen till one is within a few yards of it. The house is of recent erection ; is handsome, without any pretensions to architectural display, and is chiefly remarkable for its quiet and secluded situation. Mr Grant is a keen angler, and the Carron fishings on the Spey give ample scope for exercising the gentle art. A short distance up the burn of Carron is the famous

cave of a noted member of the Carron ancestry, James-au-Tuam, who flourished in the early part of the seventeenth century, and had a rival in Grant of Ballindalloch. The Earl of Moray interposed on behalf of Ballindalloch, when Carron took to the hills, where he roamed a lawless freebooter of the Rob Roy type. He was seized and confined in Edinburgh Castle for two years, from which, by the aid of his wife, he escaped, returned to Strathspey, and getting hold of his enemy Ballindalloch, carried him to a lime kiln at Elgin, in which he kept him a prisoner for three weeks, when he made good his escape to Innes House. Notwithstanding the accumulated guilt of James Grant, he subsequently obtained a remission, and lived to take part in the troubles attending the introduction of the Covenant. Macpherson, another lawless freebooter, also took shelter in the caves frequented by James-au-Tuam. Macpherson was hanged at Banff, where, when he came to the fatal tree, he played upon his favourite violin the tune to which he has bequeathed his name, Macpherson's Rant, and then dashed the instrument to pieces on the executioner's head. His sword is preserved at Duff House, and is a ponderous double-handed weapon, which only a Hercules could wield. Carron is associated with more pleasing reminiscences than the sanguinary exploits of a James-au-Tuam, a Mackintosh of Borlum, or a Macpherson of similar notoriety. To a Mrs Grant of Carron is attributed the authorship of "Roy's Wife o' Aldivalloch," although there seems a difficulty in identifying "The Braes o' Balloch," originally "The Glacks of Balloch."

DARNAWAY CASTLE

Is a huge pile of building of polished freestone, with a Grecian front, and window ornaments of a Gothic character. The principal entrance is by two stairs that together form a semi-circle, and lead to the entrance hall in the centre of the building. The extending wings, with their embattled walls and turret ornamented angles, give the Castle an imposing and princely appearance. It is situated in the parish of Dyke, about five miles south-west from Forres, on a rising ground in the midst of a park of the most extended dimensions, and is even more magnificent in point of situation than it is handsome and beautiful in structure. The ancestral trees which are here and there dotted along the natural adorned lawn, give it an appearance of rich magnificence but rarely to be met with. The Castle is entirely modern, not being much more than fifty years old, and is built on the site of the old castle. It was commenced about 1802, and finished in 1812. The entrance hall is a large quadrangular apartment, the roof of which is supported by four massive Corinthian pillars. This hall is adorned with numerous family and other pictures of great value. Over the fire place is a magnificent picture of Charles the First, by Van-dyke. The King is represented standing beneath the outspreading branches of an oak tree. The Duke of Hamilton is bending over the arched neck of the King's gallant grey, and beside him is a page for attending upon the noble steed. On the left of this

picture hangs a fine half-length portrait of the Earl of Moray, first Baron St Colme. On the other side, in a glass case, is a miniature likeness of Her Majesty, shortly after her accession to the throne. Immediately above is a half-length portrait of the “Bonny Earl of Moray,” who was murdered at Donibristle by the Huntly Gordons in 1592.

“ He was a brave gallant,
And played at the glove ;
And the bonny Earl of Moray
Oh ! he was the Queen’s love !”

On the opposite side, and corresponding to each of these, are a full-length portrait of the present Earl of Moray in the Highland costume, by Sir John Watson Gordon ; and a half-length picture of the Earl of Moray, Lord Chancellor of Scotland, in his official robes, and beside it a similar sized picture of the same Earl’s lady. On the left of the doorway leading to Randolph’s Hall is a large and very fine picture, supposed to be one of Queen Mary attired for a masquerade in the dress of a page. On the left is a portrait of Regent Moray’s mother-in-law, balanced on the opposite side by one of his sister-in-law, and underneath each hang portraits of an Earl of Moray. On the right of the doorway is a portrait of the Earl of Moray and his sister when children, dressed in white, and on either side of it hang other family portraits, such as that of the Earl of Moray when a boy, Sir James Balfour and his daughter, who was a Countess of Moray, &c. At one end of this entrance hall stands

a large billiard table, and at the other end an ancient oaken one, which is said to have belonged to Randolph. The wood is solid oak, and the massive feet are richly carved, and so indeed was the top, but some individual whose notions of improvement consisted in making alterations, considered himself well employed in effacing its decorations, and accordingly planed off the carved work and smoothed its surface. From the entrance hall, the door already described leads to the ancient portion of the Castle, Randolph's Hall, a noble apartment measuring 100 feet in length, 40 in breadth, and 90 feet high. It is said to be capable of holding 1000 men-at-arms. It was built by Randolph, the first Earl of Moray, the friend and nephew and fellow warrior of Robert Bruce, and afterwards Regent of Scotland, who died in 1331. It has a "hammer and beam roof," and resembles that of Parliament House, Edinburgh. The rafters and beams are much blackened by time, and the ornamental carvings that had adorned the corbels and points of the hammer beams much effaced. The walls are cased on the outside with the same stone as the new Castle, and it is plastered and whitewashed inside and lighted with modern windows, giving it the appearance of a Presbyterian church or chapel without the pews. The splendid arch which formed the ingle or fireplace has been filled up and reduced to the size and appearance of a kitchen grate. The hall is scantily furnished, but contains a few interesting relics. There is a carved chair which belonged to Randolph, with a thistle rudely cut on it. One has the letters I. S. cut on its back. Another rustic looking arm chair is said to have belonged to

the Priory of Pluscarden. Among the other relics of the past are a chair, the embroidery on the velvet cushion of which is said to be the work of Queen Mary ; an old target or shield ; Randolph's spear ; the mace of Regent Murray ; and the colours of the Sutherland Fencibles, torn and shattered at the engagement of Vinegar Hill. The last historical association connected with this apartment, is the circumstance of Mary Queen of Scots holding a council in it on her progress to the north, in the autumn of 1562. The view from the battlements of this noble pile of building is something superb—eastward may be seen the town of Forres and Cluny hills, the tower and woods of Burgie, the woods of Altyre, the handsome Gothic church of Rafford, bounded in the distance by the valley leading to the ruined Abbey of Pluscarden. Turning round we see the Moray Frith, the remote mountains of Sutherland and Caithness, the peninsula of Easter Ross, and the Bay of Cromarty. Farther westward the eye ranges over the country in the neighbourhood of Nairn, the distant mountains above Strathglass and Strathconon, the gigantic mountain of Ben Wyvis, and the blue serrated hills running from Loch Ness. In the south-west the Cairngorm summits are distinctly seen—a stedfast and majestic landmark amid the wide-spread scene below.

Fordoun mentions that Angus, Earl of Moray, was slain by the Scots at Stricathrow about 1131 ; and Selden informs us, that in 1171 William the Lion promised to grant the earldom of Moray to Morgund, son of Gillocherus, Earl of Man. There are no accounts of any others to be depended on until about

1314, when King Robert Bruce erected his lands in Moray into an earldom, and bestowed it on his nephew, Thomas Randolph, whom Pitscottie calls chief of the Clan-Allan. This Earl died in 1331, and was succeeded by his son Thomas, who fell in the battle of Dupplin, 1332. His brother John succeeded him, who was killed in the battle of Durham, 1346, leaving no issue, and the Earldom reverted to the Crown ; but Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March, in right of his wife Agnes, daughter of Thomas Randolph, the first Earl of Moray, was called Earl of Moray. John, his second son, having married the Princess Marjory, daughter of King Robert II., was made Earl of Moray in 1372. Upon the demise of John, Thomas, his son, succeeded ; and on his death, without male issue, James, his nephew, succeeded, who left two daughters. The youngest of them, Elizabeth, married Archibald Douglas, brother to the Earl of Douglas. From the influence of the Douglases he was made Earl of Moray in 1446 ; but joining in his brother's rebellion in 1452, he was killed in 1455, and the Earldom, now forfeited, was annexed to the Crown. In 1501 James IV. granted the Earldom of Moray to his bastard son James Stuart, who died in 1544, when it again reverted to the Crown, and Queen Mary in 1548 bestowed it on George, Earl of Huntly. He was deprived of it in 1554. In 1561 the Earldom was bestowed on James Stuart, the illegitimate son of James V., Prior of St Andrews, and afterwards Regent of Scotland, of whom the present Earls are descended in the female line. In 1563 he obtained from Queen Mary another charter of the Earldom, limited to himself and

his heirs male, whom failing, to return to the Crown. He was slain in 1570, when the estate and dignity reverted to the Crown, as the Regent had no heirs male of his body. In 1580 James VI. gifted the ward and marriage of Elizabeth and Margaret, daughters and heiresses of the deceased Earl of Moray, to James Stewart, son and heir of James Stewart of Doun. A few days after, James Stewart married Lady Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, and assumed the title of Earl of Moray. This Earl was murdered in 1592, and his son James succeeded, who died in 1638, and was succeeded by his son James, who died 1653. To him succeeded his son Alexander, who died in 1700. James, Lord Doun, the son of this Alexander, died before his father, and left two daughters. The eldest, Elizabeth, married Brigadier-General Grant of Grant, and the second married Thomas Fraser of Strichen ; but, agreeable to the limitation of the estate and peerage to heirs male, Charles, next brother to Lord Doun, succeeded as Earl of Moray, and dying without issue in 1735, was succeeded by his surviving brother Francis, who died in 1739. His eldest son, James, succeeded him, and died in 1767 ; and he was succeeded by Francis, his son, who in 1763 married Miss Gray, daughter of Lord Gray. In 1796 this Earl was created a British peer, under the title of Lord Stuart of Castle Stuart. He died in 1810, and was succeeded by his son Francis, the tenth Earl, who was born in 1771, and died in 1848, when his son Francis succeeded as eleventh Earl. He died in 1859 without issue, and his brother John, the present Earl, succeeded to the title and estates.

DUNPHAIL CASTLE,

THE seat of Major Cumming Bruce, M.P. for the counties of Elgin and Nairn, is situated in a vale of the richest and most luxurious scenery, a short distance from the old Castle of that name, a few miles from Altyre. The house is an elegant mansion of the Italian order of architecture, built in 1829, from plans by Mr Playfair, architect, to which considerable additions have since been made. The hills, which farther down nearly approach each other, here open out with a graceful sweep, and are charmingly varied on either side, while the splendid trees of every shade and dimension that grow around it, and the long drives that stretch in serpentine sinuosities through the velvety lawn give it the finest possible effect. From the south-west front of the house the eye naturally glides along the beautifully wooded western bank of the river Divie and through the vale of the Dorback, till the view is terminated by the Knock of Braemoray. To the north-east rise two tiers of terraces, at the northern extremity of the higher and more distant of which is the hill on whose summit the Old Castle stands. On the higher of these terraces, which stretches from the southern base of the Castle Hill, is the garden, which is most tastefully and elegantly laid out, as are the whole of the flower plots and shrubberies which ornament that beautiful valley.

This barony, which was the heritage of Dunbar of Dunphail, descended through the Westfield branch of the Dunbar family for nearly two hundred and fifty

years, and about 1738 was purchased by Colonel Lewis Grant, who died in 1742 while serving in the expedition to Carthagena. By will made before setting out on that expedition, he left the estate to his nephew, Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant, Bart. Helen, the fifth daughter of Sir Ludovick, married Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming, Bart. of Altyre, and the estate of Dunphail was purchased by Sir Alexander from Sir James Grant, her ladyship's brother. On the death of Sir Alexander in 1806, he left it to his second son, Major Cumming, who married Mary Bruce of Kinaird—a grand-daughter of the Abyssinian Bruce—when he assumed the surname of Bruce.

DALVEY HOUSE,

THE residence of Norman M'Leod, Esq., is situated in the parish of Dyke, about a mile and a-half west from Forres. After crossing the Findhorn by the suspension bridge, and cresting the hill beyond, a glimpse is got of this elegant mansion peering through the tall ancestral trees by which it is surrounded. The house stands on a gentle eminence, with a fine southern exposure. The grounds around the mansion house are laid out with the greatest taste and care, while the garden, with its orchid, greenhouse, vinery, &c., may vie with the richest palatial residence in the kingdom. The liberality and generosity of the proprietor in admitting the public within his grounds, the genial and cordial welcome accorded to them, his happiness on seeing them enjoy themselves, and his efforts to contribute to that enjoyment, have made the Dalvey

gardens a place of public resort for tourists and holiday makers. No cost seems to be spared in procuring specimens of anything new and interesting in botanical research, nor care nor trouble thought of in order to bring them to perfection ; and hence plants have flowered in Dalvey gardens which have nowhere else in Great Britain been brought to maturity. Several magnificent well-trained specimens of the Irish yew, green and varigated holly, cedars, and other trees and shrubs adorn the lawn in front of the orchid and old *Victoria Regia* houses. Inside these houses a high moist temperature is maintained, and at all seasons present a varied and striking appearance—thriving mosses, planted on the floor, creep up the walls ; the *Ouverandra Fenistralis*, or lace-leaved plant, luxuriates in its water tank ; and bulbous plants, with the smallest conceivable modicum of soil, thrive well as they stick to the stump of a tree, dangle from the roof, or sit fantastically in some out-of-the-way corner. There is also a Museum in the gardens, containing a choice collection of specimens of natural history, antiquities, and other articles of vertu, culled from almost every quarter of the globe.

Dalvey was formerly a barony belonging to the Priory of Pluscarden, and known as Grangehill. With the other lands of that Priory, it came to the Earl of Dunfermline, who sold it to Mark Dunbar of Durris about the year 1608, and from whose descendants Sir Alexander Grant purchased it in 1749, and in his charter changed the name Grangehill into Dalvey. It subsequently passed into the hands of Captain Alexander M'Leod, father of the present proprietor.

DUFFUS HOUSE,

THE seat of Sir Archibald Dunbar, Bart., is beautifully situated between the Old Castle of Duffus and the village of the same name, nearly six miles north of Elgin. The road from Elgin to Duffus House, after emerging from the hill of Quarrywood, passes through the fertile Laich of Moray, which, although studded with handsome modern farm-houses and steadings, has scarcely a knoll to relieve the landscape, until the gentle eminence is reached where the approach to the mansion house strikes off the road on the right through a plantation and shrubberies. Like most country residences, it has at different times been enlarged and improved, and although not an imposing edifice, is a handsome and commodious mansion. The public rooms are large, well lighted, airy apartments, and the rural embellishments are suitable and well adapted to the neighbourhood. The northern elevation is three storeys high, with initial dormer windows, having to the left a short two-storey wing at right angles, and at the right a projecting gable, on which is the Dunbar crest—a dagger and key. The entrance is by a massive porch with an oriel window above it, and between this window and the gable rises a short square spire with finial. The initials on the windows of this part of the building are—on window beside the porch, A.D., and on the others F.D., A.M., A.A., respectively. On the windows of the adjoining wing are A.D., and S.O., the initials of the present Baronet and his lady. The west elevation

is two storeys high, having lofty projecting windows on the ground floor. On a freestone panel above one of these windows are several family initials ingeniously interlaced through each other. The large projecting windows of the double gable on the south side overlook a park or pleasure ground. On the east side of the mansion is a greenhouse and several diamond shaped flower beds, cut in grass; while a short distance farther east is a tastefully laid out flower garden, well sheltered from the north, and having a fine southern exposure. Embowered among the trees and shrubberies to the west is the kitchen garden; and north from the farm steading is an extensive well stocked orchard.

The estate of Duffus was purchased by Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton from James, second Lord of Duffus. The Dunbars of Thunderton and Duffus are the representatives of Dunbar of Kilbuiak, the third son of Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, who was the only son of James, Earl of Moray, who died about 1446. Sir Patrick Dunbar of Hempriggs and Northfield having died in 1763 without male issue, the title of Baronet devolved upon Alexander Dunbar of Thunderton, as nearest heir male. Sir Alexander married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Viscount of Arbuthnot, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. He died in 1791, and was succeeded by his eldest son Archibald, who married, first, Helen Penrose, daughter of Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming Bart. of Altyre, and had seven sons and six daughters; second, Mary, daughter of John Brander, Esq. of Pitgaveny, by whom he had a son and daughter.

When Sir Archibald died in 1847, the title and estate fell to his son Archibald, the present Baronet, who married, first, Keith Alicia, daughter of George Ramsay, Esq. of Barnton, by whom he had two sons and two daughters ; and second, Sophia, daughter of George Orred, Esq. of Aigburth and Tranmere, by whom he has three sons.

DALLAS LODGE.

ABOUT half-a-mile west from the village of Dallas, in a gentle acclivity at the base of the hill of Melundy, on the Altyre estate, stands Dallas Lodge, the shooting quarters of King George, Esq. It is a delightfully situated house of irregular structure, founded by Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstown. It had been intended to be encircled by outhouses or offices similar to the house of Gordonstown, but only one half of the circle was completed, much to its advantage and beauty as a residence. The foundation of the other half was laid, however, and was only dug out a few years ago. The house is fitted up with a number of modern conveniences seldom met with in country residences of far greater pretensions. In the kitchen there is a fine cistern, with a copious supply of water ; and from cellar to garret the rooms are lighted with excellent gas manufactured on the premises. A neat garden lies in front of the house, with a stream flowing through it, on

which Mr Brownlow North, when living here, had a fine bathing house erected, where, by means of traps and sluices any quantity of water required was admitted and retained as long as desired, and again liberated or replaced at the will of the bather. It was, however, ultimately allowed to go to ruins. A house built and frequently inhabited by the famous Wizard could not be expected, in a place where fairies, ghosts, and spunkies are so abundant, to be without its quota of legends and tales of supernatural appearances ; and there are some who still have lurking suspicions that on stated occasions the ghost of Sir Robert visits the place in a variety of guises and forms.

WESTER ELCHIES.

THE House of Wester Elchies is said to have been originally an outpost of Castle Grant. It is the property of William Grant, Esq., and is let along with the shootings and salmon fishings to John Gavin, Esq. From the various additions which this mansion has received, it is now a large building, partly in the old manorial, and partly in the castellated style, still retaining in some of the cellars small windows and gun-ports, used for defence in former ages. In the entrance hall are preserved some chairs from the old Castle of Rothes, marked with an Earl's coronet, and supposed to be several centuries old. The scientific attainments of the late J. W. Grant, Esq., have made the

name of Wester Elchies famous. Close by the house stands the observatory, where a most valuable and powerful telescope, with all the appliances requisite for the perfect working of the instrument, were fitted up by the venerable father of the present proprietor. The Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Professor P. Smith, while on a visit at Wester Elchies in 1862, made several very important astronomical discoveries with this instrument. In "Good Words" for February, 1863, the learned Professor gave an account of his discoveries, and also paid an eloquent tribute to Mr Grant's devotion to the science. The entrance to the observatory is guarded by two Sphinxes, while over the doorway is inscribed the motto, "He made the stars also." At Wester Elchies are several sculptured stones, the remains of a Hindoo Temple. They had lain for upwards of one hundred years in the neighbourhood of Gour, the ancient Hindoo capital, and were sent to this country by the late J. W. Grant, Esq.

Robert Grant, son of Alexander Grant, a descendent of the Ballindalloch family, by his industry and success in trade, purchased the lands of Wester Elchies, Ballintomb, Knockando, Craigmill, Allachy, Carron, and Quilquoich, making altogether a large estate. He died at Wester Elchies in 1803, leaving the estate to his son Charles, who died in the Isle of Wight in 1828, leaving no family, and the estate fell to James William Grant, who died in 1865, when his eldest son, William Grant of Carron, succeeded to the estate.

EASTER ELCHIES.

THIS mansion house, delightfully situated on the rising ground on the left bank of the Spey, nearly opposite Aberlour, is occupied by Colonel Campbell of Culgrain, in Argyleshire, who is a distant relative of Sir George Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch. The approach is from the Craigellachie side by a broad carriage drive, with a border of evergreen shrubs, through a large park sparsely studded with fine hardwood trees. The house is a neat and commodious structure, three storeys high. Part of it is as old as the time of Lord Elchies, but it was remodelled and almost rebuilt in 1857, with the principal entrance on the east front. On the ground floor in the western wing is the dining-room, above which, on the second floor, stands the drawing-room, with a large bay window rising the height of both storeys. At the angle formed by the southern and eastern wings, there starts from the level of the second storey a round turret, which rises the height of the third storey, and terminates in a slated dome and finial. The founder of the family of Easter Elchies was Patrick Grant, second son of Duncan the fifteenth laird of Grant. Of this Patrick was descended Patrick Lord Elchies, a distinguished judge in the Court of Session, who took his title from this property. He died in 1754. His son, Baron Grant, sold the property to the Earl of Findlater, and it now belongs to the Right Hon. the Earl of Seafield.

Near the house is a fragment of the ancient church of Macallan, with its old churchyard. Macallan formed a separate pastorate, but was united to Knockando about the time the old mansion house was built.

FINDRASSIE HOUSE,

THE residence of Robert Dewey Forster, Esq., is approached by a fine avenue which branches off the road leading from Elgin to Duffus, a short distance beyond the Bishopmill Quarries, and descends the north side of the hill with a gentle sweep through graceful spruce and silver firs, with here and there branches of the shady beech joining overhead, forming a beautiful green canopy. The avenue crosses the road which runs along the base of the hill from near Lochside westward, and enters the grounds between two massive stone pillars. The house is a modern comfortable looking structure of hewn freestone, two storeys high, having a parallel wing of one storey at each end. The front of the house faces to the south, from which no extended view can be had ; but the wide expanse of the Laich of Moray, terminating in the hill of Roseisle, Covesea Lighthouse, and the Coularthill, form a beautiful panorama to the north. At the south-east corner of the main building, and in front of the east wing, stands a neat little conservatory.

The estate of Findrassie originally belonged to a descendent of the Leslies, Earls of Rothes, and about 1824 was sold by Sir Charles Leslie to Colonel Grant, who died in 1833. The estate was then sold to James Ogilvie Tod, Esq., a retired judge from the East Indies, who died a few years afterwards, leaving the estate to his only daughter, who in 1840 married Mr Robert Dewey Forster, the present proprietor.

GORDON CASTLE,

THE Scottish seat of His Grace the Duke of Richmond, stands adjacent to the town of Fochabers, on the eastern border of the county, nine miles from Elgin, and three from the Fochabers Station of the Highland Railway. The entrance to the Castle from the high road on the west is through a lofty arch, with a porter-lodge on either side. The carriage drive winds for about a mile through a green parterre, skirted with flowering shrubs and groups of tall spreading trees, terminating in an oval space in front of the principal entrance on the north side of the Castle. The approach from the east sweeps for miles through the varied scenery of the park, and is enlivened by different pleasant views of the country around, with occasional glimpses of the river and the ocean. This ducal palace was originally a fortress in the midst of a morass that could only be reached by a causeway and drawbridge, and was long known as the Bog o' Gight, or the windy bog, and gave to its proprietor the title of the Gudeman o' the Bog. It now consists of a large central building of four storeys, to which have been added spacious wings, which are connected with the main building by galleries or arcades of two lower storeys; and beyond the pavilions are extended on each hand buildings of one floor and an attic storey, forming altogether a front of 568 feet. The whole of this "world of a house" is externally of Elgin freestone, and finished all round with a rich cornice and charac-

teristic battlement. Behind the principal building, or in the south front, has been preserved the original tower, of six storeys, which rose to the height of nearly ninety feet in the tenth or eleventh century. The spacious vestibule is embellished with statues of the Apollo Belvidere, and of the Venus de Medicis ; there are also several busts from the antique, together with one of the celebrated William Pitt, and another, presented in 1720, of Cosmo the Third, Grand Duke of Tuscany, between whom and the Duke of Gordon an intimate friendship subsisted, and in honour of whom the third Duke was named Cosmo George, one of whose sons was the well-known Lord George Gordon, leader of the London rioters in 1780. The first floor contains the breakfast, dining, and drawing rooms, the bedchamber of state, with its dressing-room, and several other elegant apartments. The great dining-room is strikingly magnificent, and is adorned with many portraits of Earls and Marquises and Marchionesses of Huntly. In the third storey there is a small theatre, a music room, and the library, furnished with thousands of volumes and some ancient manuscripts, together with a geographical and astronomical apparatus. The armoury contains many specimens of warlike instruments of various ages and of different lands. The walls in the various rooms of the Castle are decorated with many fine family portraits, and a large collection of valuable paintings by the old masters. The park, comprehending several square miles, is laid out in the most tasteful manner, and embraces a great variety of scenery. “Hill and valley lay between my eye and the horizon,” says an American traveller, “sheep fed

in picturesque flocks, and small fallow deer grazed near them ; the trees were planted and the distant forest shaped by the hand of taste, and broad and beautiful as was the expanse taken in by the eye, it was evidently one princely possession. A mile from the Castle wall the shaven sward extended in a carpet of velvet softness as bright as emerald, studded by clumps of shrubbery like flowers wrought elegantly on tapestry ; and across it bounded occasionally a hare, and the pheasants fed undisturbed near the thickets, or a lady with flowing riding-dress and flaunting feather dashed into sight upon her fleet blood-palfry, and was lost the next moment in the woods ; or a boy put his pony to its mettle up the ascent, or a game-keeper idled into sight with his gun in the hollow of his arm, and his hounds at his heels." Several objects of attraction are to be found within the policies that will interest the antiquarian as well as the lover of the beautiful in nature and art. An old house, which is supposed to have formed part of the ancient town of Fochabers, has been tastefully fitted up and surrounded by a verandah, and near by stands the old Cross of Fochabers, in the form of a cylindrical pillar twelve feet high and six feet in circumference, surmounted by a square capital. Part of the ancient *jougs*, for encircling the necks of offenders, still dangles from a chain attached to the pillar, which in the course of time it has considerably worn as it swings to and fro in the wind. A huge lime tree of fantastic form is to be seen, with its banyan-like branches spreading downwards and covering a space of fully three hundred feet, forming a spacious shady facade around

the parent stem. This extraordinary child of the forest is known as “The Duchess’s Tree.” Attached to the south side of the Castle is the conservatory, filled with a choice assortment of exotics. The gardens are on a scale of magnitude in keeping with the princely mansion and pleasure grounds. Besides the large well-stocked kitchen garden, there is a viney, a pine house, and an orchid house. Passing eastward through the rich green sward for about a mile from the Castle, a delightful spot is reached called the Quarry Garden, which, as its name implies, was once a stone quarry, but it is now by the hand of taste and skill converted into one of the most delightful spots one could wish to look upon, and no visitors to Gordon Castle should finish their tour of inspection without having seen it.

The family of Gordon is ancient and noble, and has possessed considerable property in the province of Moray since the reign of King Robert Bruce. The first account we have of their establishment in Scotland is in the Merse, where they had the lands of Gordun, and probably were of the number of those refugees whom Malcolm Canmore and his successors encouraged so much to establish themselves in the kingdom. Sir Adam Gordon gallantly supported Robert Bruce against the Cummins, particularly at the battle of Inverury. In reward of his services, he had a grant in the lordship of Strathbogie, which was confirmed by King David Bruce in 1358. His son, Sir John Gordon, was slain in the battle of Otterburn in 1388; and his son, Sir Adam, was slain at Homildon in 1402. Sir Adam left no issue but a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Alexander Se-

ton, by whom she had a son, Alexander, who in 1421 and 1439 is called Alexander de Seton, dominus de Gordon, and it was not till 1449 that the family resumed the surname of Gordon, when created Earls of Huntly. Alexander, first Earl of Huntly, was thrice married, and upon his death in 1479, George, the son of the third marriage, succeeded to the estate and dignity of Huntly as second Earl. It was this George who founded Gordon Castle and erected the Priory of Kingussie. He left three sons, Alexander, his successor, Adam of Aboyne, and William of Gight. Alexander was made hereditary sheriff of the county, and constable of the Castle of Inverness, and dying in 1523, was succeeded by his grandson George, a man of unbounded ambition, who, rebelling against Queen Mary, was killed in the battle of Corrichie in 1562. He was succeeded by his son George, whose son George, it is said, promoted the murder of the Earl of Moray at Donibristle in 1592; he fought the battle of Glenlivat in 1594, was created Marquis of Huntly in 1599, and died in 1636. His son George succeeded. He was a captain of the Scots Guards of France, which attended the person of the King, and was generally commanded by sons of the Scottish nobility. This Marquis was beheaded by the Covenanters in 1649, and was succeeded by his son Lewis, who married a daughter of the Laird of Grant. Having died in 1653, he was succeeded by his son George, who was created Duke of Gordon in 1684. His son Alexander succeeded in 1716, died in 1728, and was succeeded by his son Cosmo George. He died in 1752, and was succeeded by Alexander, who, in 1784, was

created a British Peer, under the title of Earl of Norwich. He married a daughter of Sir William Maxwell of Monreith, by whom he had four daughters. Charlotte, the eldest, married Colonel Charles Lennox, a nephew of the then Duke of Richmond. Alexander died in 1827, and was succeeded in the dignities and estates by his only son George, as fifth Duke. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Brodie of Arnhall, and died in 1836 without issue, when the titles became extinct, and the estates devolved on his nephew, Charles Gordon Lennox, fifth Duke of Richmond. He died in 1860, and was succeeded by his son, Charles Henry Gordon Lennox, the present Duke, who in 1843 married Frances Harriet, eldest daughter of Algernon Frederick Greville, Esq., and has issue Charles Henry Earl of March, born 1845; Algernon Charles, born 1847; Francis Charles, born 1849; Walter Charles, born 1865; Caroline Elizabeth, born 1844; and Florence Augusta, born 1851.

GORDONSTOWN HOUSE.

THIS mansion-house is situated in a low-lying level plain in the parish of Drainie, about five miles from Elgin, and a little to the northward of the old Castle of Duffus. It is rather an unattractive building, and is said to be of the Dutch style of architecture. It consists of a large square central block of masonry, with wings at the east and west ends, the corners of which are surmounted by small turrets. The principal entrance faces the north, and leads into a pretty

large entrance hall, which is adorned with a number of fine old paintings, the largest of which is a copy from Raphael's "Philosophy in the School of Athens." The spacious dining-room is about 60 feet in length, and occupies half the breadth of the middle or higher part of the building; the drawing-room is of equal size, and both have quite a modern appearance. At the time of the last Sir Robert Gordon's death the house was unfinished, and it seems to have been allowed to stand as he left it, with nothing but the bare walls, until it was finished under the directions of the late Lady Cumming. Of all the gentlemen's seats in the broad Province of Moray, there is not one surrounded with such traditions of popular superstition as that of Gordonstown. Other houses and castles had their occasional visitants from another world—their haunted chambers and places where ghosts and spectres were said to have made their appearance; but *it* was built and inhabited by a veritable wizard, who was all-potent in his calling, and the terror of the surrounding country, and the shadow of whose mantle seems even yet to darken its chambers, and give awe and dread to its seldom frequented precincts.

In the collection of paintings at Innes House is a portrait of “that waefusome loon,” and it is said the artist requested him while sitting to look as cheerful as possible ; and if that was really his most cheerful aspect, what must have been his frown !

The first Baronet of Gordonstown was Sir Robert Gordon, second son of Alexander, fifteenth Earl of Sutherland, a man of great consequence in his day and generation. He was a Privy Councillor of Charles I., the first Premier Baronet and Vice-Chancellor of Scotland, a bearer of the King’s train at the coronation, High Sheriff of Inverness, a commissioner to Zetland, and historian of the house of Sutherland. Sir Robert purchased the lands of Drainie in 1636, and in the course of six or seven years had the whole of Ogston, Pethnik, Burnside, and Plewland added to his Gordonstown estate. The second Baronet, Sir Ludovick Gordon, received a liberal education in Holland, and on his accession to the estate in 1656, ornamented it with canals, terraces, and avenues. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Farquhar of Mounie, by whom he had four sons and four daughters ; his eldest daughter Lucy married Robert Cumming of Altyre, and it was through this marriage that the Gordonstown estate ultimately fell to the Altyre family. On the death of Sir Ludovick, his son Sir Robert, the Wizard, succeeded, and married Elizabeth, only daughter of Sir William Dunbar of Hemprigs, by whom he had three sons and four daughters. He died in 1701, and was succeeded by his son Sir Robert, who married Agnes, daughter of Sir William Maxwell of Calderwood, by whom he had four sons and a daughter, and died in 1772. The

present main building seems to have been erected by him. He was succeeded by his son Sir Robert, who was in course of making great improvements on the house, but died a bachelor in 1776 before the interior was finished, when he was succeeded by his brother Sir William, who also died a bachelor in 1795, and the title devolved upon Sir James Gordon of Letterfourie, and the estates fell to Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming of Altyre.

GRANGEHALL,

THE manorial seat of James Grant Peterkin, Esq. of Grange, lies on the south side of the Highland Railway, two miles eastward from Forres. It is one of the finest houses in the district, occupying a quadrangular space of sixty by forty feet, and four storeys in height. The lower storey is built of rough-dressed freestone, having the resemblance of the natural rock, while the other three storeys are of the same material, but finely dressed. The lower or ground storey is entirely occupied by the servants apartments. The entrance is on the south side to the second storey, on which floor are the dining and drawing-room and breakfast parlour—large, well proportioned apartments, elegantly finished and furnished in the richest manner. A light spacious easy staircase leads up to the bedrooms, in the third and in the attic storey. The square form of the building admits of having all the rooms more commodiously disposed, in relation to one

another, than houses with more extended and more varied fronts, requiring long passages, and irregular communications within. The offices form a handsome slated square court, at a little distance on the north side of this splendid mansion ; they contain neat accommodation for all the exigencies of a large establishment. The garden is pleasantly situated at a convenient distance on the south, sheltered in the bosom of a natural grown grove from every chilling blast, while it is open to the genial influence of the sun. A great extent of fertile corn-fields, sufficiently enclosed by thriving plantations, bespeak the residence of opulence conjoined with the most accurate taste.

The Dunbars of Grange were descended from Alexander Dunbar, Dean of Moray, who in 1567 married Catherine Reid, niece of the Abbot of Kinloss, with whom he got considerable landed property. James Peterkin, Esq., purchased the estate of Grange from the successors of the Dean about the beginning of this century, and died in 1812, when his son John Gordon Peterkin, Esq., succeeded ; he effected great improvements on the estate, and died in 1832, leaving an only sister, Mary Anne. She married Major Peter Grant of Invererne, who then assumed the surname of Peterkin, and completed the improvements begun by his brother-in-law. Mrs Grant Peterkin died in 1854, when her elder son, the present proprietor, succeeded to the estate.

HOPEMAN LODGE

WAS built by the late William Young, Esq. of Burg-head, when proprietor of Inverugie, and afterwards improved by the late Admiral Duff of Drummuir for a seaside residence. It now belongs to Lachlan Duff Gordon Duff, Esq., and is the residence of the Hon. Lewis Grant. It is quite a small and unpretending house of two storeys, built on a high freestone ridge, about half-a mile east of the village of Hopeman. The entrance is on the south side, by a flight of steps leading to the second storey. A small addition is built to either end of the house, and behind is a back wing containing accommodation for servants, with stable and coach-house, having light, airy rooms above. Ample level pleasure grounds are in front of the house ; on the west, along the edge of the precipitous banks, stunted firs find but a scanty subsistence, and afford little shelter from the sharp sea breeze. On the north side, the grounds are enclosed by a substantial stone wall running along the sea beach, between which and the rocky ledge on which the house is built, are small patches of cultivated ground. At the east end of the house are two old gate pillars, where a road had formerly led to the shore, near which a copious spring of fine water flows into a neatly covered well, and percolating through the stone wall, is lost among the sand beds on the beach. This well is called the Braemou Well. The origin of the name is lost, but it was reckoned a holy spring, and drinking its waters was

esteemed a sovereign remedy for all diseases. Pilgrimages were made to it up to a very recent date. William Hay calls it—

“The well of the Braemou, in which
When bairns we were a’ douk’d thegither,
To take aff the ill e’e o’ a witch.”

As a marine residence, the situation, though lonely, is admirably adapted for the purpose. Excellent bathing ground lies all along that part of the coast, and from its elevation an extensive seaward prospect is obtained on either hand, and the distant hills of Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness are seen on the opposite side of the Frith.

INVERUGIE HOUSE.

INVERUGIE HOUSE, the property of Peter Mortimer, Esq., is delightfully situated on the south side of the hill of Roseisle, about eight miles from Elgin, and a short distance west from Duffus House. It is securely sheltered by the surrounding plantations, leaving a fine southern exposure. The approach is by a broad walk, with a graceful curve as it ascends the gentle eminence from the public road. The house was erected a few years ago, and is a very handsome residence of one storey, built of finely dressed freestone. At the entrance on the east side is an elegant semi-circular portico, supported by four Corinthian pillars, with richly chased base and capitals, having on either side

a large bay window. A verandah on the south side overlooks the adjacent fertile fields, the scene of several deadly feuds in former days, as testified by the stone coffins recently discovered when trenching land on the estate. Inverugie had got that name either from the Cheynes or Keiths (subsequently Earls Marischal) from their estate of Inverugie in Buchan. By marriage part of the estate of Duffus fell to Nicholas Sutherland, son of the Earl of Sutherland, whose grandson, Alexander Sutherland, greatly increased his fortune by marrying the heiress of Chisholm of Quarrelwood, and purchased the third of Duffus which belonged to the Keiths, and had an opulent estate; while Alexander, the fifth in descent from him, was made a Peer by King Charles II., on 8th December, 1650, and took the title of Lord Duffus. Inverugie continued the property of this family till it was sold with other parts of the estate of Duffus in 1705 to Archibald Dunbar of Thundertown, great-grandfather of the present Sir Archibald Dunbar, Bart., of Northfield, and his family owned it until the late William Young, Esq. of Burghead, purchased it in 1803. He was proprietor for some seventeen or eighteen years, and then sold it to William Stuart, Esq., whose heirs disposed of Hopeman about 1837 to the late Admiral Duff of Drummuir, retaining the remainder of Inverugie until it was sold in 1852 to Peter Mortimer, Esq., the present proprietor.



INNES HOUSE.

INNES HOUSE, one of the baronial seats of the Right Hon. the Earl of Fife, K.T., lies in the parish of St Andrews-Lhanbryd, about four miles from Elgin. The porter-lodge at the western entrance is a neat but plain building, at the end of a fine broad avenue, about three-quarters of a mile in length. The visitor, after traversing the avenue, from which there appears no exit, and the end of which at every turn seems as distant as ever, suddenly and unexpectedly comes

upon this stately mansion, with its white walls and light and airy turrets, standing in a valley stretching north and south, which shelters it from the eastern blast. Though not the largest, it is ranked amongst the most handsome and elegant residences in the county. It is of different styles of architecture, and in general form it may be described as that of two long wings of four storeys, placed at right angles to each other, the western end of the one touching the back of the other a little beyond its centre; at the point of junction and in front of the wing running from east to west a massive square tower rises, surmounted by a balustrade, and behind which rises a small turret, that terminates the stair leading to the landing on the top of the tower. From the angle of the other wing to the further corner of the tower a half circle is made, from fifteen to twenty feet in height, in which is placed the principal entrance, adorned with some fine tracery and carved work, and surmounted with a beautifully chiselled lion couchant in the centre. The ground floor is occupied by the requisite household accommodations. The first floor contains a suit of three magnificent rooms, in which there are a number of portraits and other valuable paintings. At the east end stands a neat private chapel. Along the front of the western wing is a broad verandah, terminating in a commodious and elegantly fitted up smoking-room. In front of the verandah is a fine terrace and flower garden, ornamented with several vases for flowers, and a number of beautiful bays. A few hundred yards east of the house is another flower garden, on one side of which, under some large trees, stands an octagonal

summer-house, surrounded with a canopy supported by rustic pillars. Still farther eastward stands the kitchen garden, with a fine sunny exposure, extending over several acres of ground. The park is of considerable extent, diversified by groves of lofty trees and rising plantations.

The first of the Inneses of Innes House was Beorald the Fleming, who obtained a charter of the lands of Innes and Urquhart between the years 1159 and 1162. His posterity gradually increased both in number and possessions throughout Moray, Banff, and Caithness-shires. Soldiers, statesmen, and eminent churchmen added lustre to its name, and allied themselves with all the great families of the country till about a couple of centuries ago, when its power began to wane, and from that time it gradually receded from the lands where it so long had reigned, till Sir James Innes, afterwards Duke of Roxburgh, sold the estate to James, second Earl of Fife, in 1767. The noble family of Fife are descended from Fyfe Macduff, a chieftain of great wealth and power, who lived about the year 834, and who afforded Kenneth II., King of Scotland, strong aid against his enemies the Picts, and at a later date from the Duffs, Barons of Muldavit in the parish of Cullen. William Duff, Esq. of Braco and Dipple, was created a Peer by the title of Lord Braco in 1735, and advanced to the dignity of an Earl in 1759. He died in 1763, and was succeeded by his son James, second Earl, who was created a Peer of Great Britain in 1790 as Baron Fife, and who died without male issue in 1809, when the barony expired, and the other honours devolved upon his brother Alexander, third

Earl. He married Mary, daughter of George Skene, Esq. of Skene, and had issue two sons and three daughters. His eldest son James succeeded as fourth Earl in 1811. He was made Baron of the United Kingdom in 1827, and greatly distinguished himself during the Peninsular war as a General in the Spanish army. He married Mary Caroline, daughter of J. Manners, Esq., and died in 1857 without issue, when he was succeeded by his nephew James Duff, the present Earl, who was created a British Peer, by the title of Lord Skene, in 1857. He married Lady Agnes Georgiana Elizabeth Hay, second daughter of the seventeenth Earl of Erroll, by whom he has issue Alexander William George Viscount Macduff, born 1849; Anne Elizabeth Clementina, born 1847, married, 1865, the fifth Marquis Townshend; Ida Louisa Alice, born 1848, married, 1867, Adrian Elias Hope, Esq.; Alexina, born 1851; and Agnes Cecil Emeline, born 1852.*

* In "Cordiner's Views in Scotland," published in the end of last century, there is a beautiful print of a warrior in armour. The stone from which this print was taken was originally erected in the aisle of the Parish Church of Cullen, and bears this inscription:—

"Hic jacet Johannes Duff de Muldavat,
Balnavi, obiit Julii, 1404."

This stone was removed to the family mausoleum at Duff House in the year 1790. John Duff, Baron of Muldavit, was an ancestor of the Earl of Fife; and Cordiner adds, "He was lineally descended from David Duff, grandson of Duncan thirteenth Earl of Fife."

INVERERNE HOUSE.

INVERERNE HOUSE belongs to Colonel Grant Peterkin, and is presently occupied by Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. James Grant of Main. After crossing the burn of Forres and the railway, the road leading to the mansion house—situated nearly a mile and a-half north from the town of Forres—is bordered on each side by a high hedge and fine trees. It is an imposing quadrangular building of four storeys, erected by General Grant in the year 1818, within a wide circular belt of hardwood and shrubberies. The entrance is ornamented by two pilasters on each side, rising to the top of the fourth storey, from the capitals of which rises an ornamented pediment. A flight of steps leads to the main floor, and communicates with the drawing-room, dining-room, and the library. During the disastrous floods of '29, Invererne, from its central situation on the right bank of the Findhorn, was besieged by the hapless inhabitants of the surrounding homesteads, who were rescued by boats and landed on a rising ground behind the house, after having “scudded across fields and tilted over hedges and banks.” “Nothing could be more strange,” says Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, “than to behold a sea of water from whatever window of the house one looked; to see the boats landing, and the sailors carrying the people on shore.” Invererne House was for several years the residence of Charles St John, Esq., the celebrated sportsman and naturalist, where he enjoyed many opportunities of studying the habits of the various water birds which

frequent the bay of Findhorn and its marshy shore. Vast numbers of them spend a short time in its sheltered waters in their yearly migration to and from the far north; and here Mr St John secured many a fine specimen of the different varieties, full details of which will be found in his works, especially in his “Natural History and Sport in Moray.”

Invererne, formerly called Tannachy, was for upwards of two hundred and fifty years in the possession of a family of the name of Tulloch, who also owned the estate of Logie, in the parish of Forres, now called Cothall. The Tullochs are supposed to have come to this country about the year 1477, and to have been connected with William Tulloch, Bishop of Moray, who was translated from the See of Orkney at that time. Although only small proprietors, they maintained a considerable standing in this county. Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy, who lived in the beginning of last century, was a man of influence. He married Mary Duff, daughter of Alexander Duff of Keithmore, and aunt of William, first Earl of Fife. He was succeeded by his son, Alexander Tulloch, who married a daughter of Provost Dawson of Forres, a leading man of his time. Having got into difficulties, he sold first Logie or Cothall, and in 1772, he, with consent of his trustees, sold Tannachy to Alexander Urquhart of Maryland in America, who having died without issue, was succeeded by his brother Robert Urquhart, whose trustees in 1817 sold it to General Grant. The General built the present house, and otherwise greatly improved the estate. After his death it was sold by his heirs in 1834 to Colonel Grant Peterkin, the present

proprietor, who afterwards married the heiress of Grange, and changed the name of the estate from Tannachy to Invererne.

KINCORTH HOUSE.

KINCORTH, in the parish of Dyke, about six miles north of Forres, is an old-fashioned manor house belonging to Robert Grant, Esq., who resides principally at Forres House, a fine mansion with extensive pleasure grounds, near the town of Forres. From its position, Kincorth commands a finely varied landscape—on the one hand the bay of Findhorn and the town of Forres, on the other the village of Findhorn and the Moray Frith, with the ever shifting sands of Culbin. These sands are the most remarkable feature in the locality, covering as they do what was one of the most fertile tracts in the Laich o' Moray which was designated the granary of Moray. Two hundred years ago it comprised many farms with their broad fields of fertile loam, and is now one vast desert of sand, destitute of any herbage except a few tufts of bent. The sands of Culbin, from their vastness and the mysteriousness of their origin, possess sufficient interest in themselves, apart from any other consideration, to draw attention to their history ; but, when viewed in connection with that terrible catastrophe which overwhelmed a beautiful and flourishing district, and left it a bleak and barren waste, the sight becomes doubly interesting. This great

accumulation of sand was derived from various parts along the shore of the Frith, when the old sea line began to break up. On many parts of the coast the sea has made extensive encroachments, especially between Burghead and Findhorn. There can be no doubt that the sand which formed the greater part of these beaches had been gradually carried westward by the sea, and thrown upon various parts of the shore between Findhorn and Nairn ; the strong north winds having seized upon the sand thus deposited and carried it inland must have been the great feeders of the huge sandhills of Mavieston, which lie three or four miles west of Culbin, from which the sand was by degrees drifted eastwards till it entirely covered the whole estate, and rendered it quite valueless. Many of the sandhills rise to the height of 100 feet above the level of the sea ; and when sections are exposed, they exhibit a species of stratification similar to a series of superimposed beds in a sandstone quarry.

There is a melancholy interest about the once flourishing estate of Culbin, now buried in sand, long possessed by an ancient family, and containing a surface of 3600 acres of the finest land, totally destroyed. In the year 1240 this estate was possessed by Richard de Moravia, brother of Gilbert, Bishop of Caithness, grandson of Freskinus, Lord of Duffus, and nephew of Hugh Freskin, ancestor of the Earls of Sutherland. In 1449, or thereby, Egidia de Moravia or Moray was heiress, the male line having failed. She married Sir Thomas Kinnaird of that ilk, and Culbin descended to her second son, Walter Kinnaird. In 1691 Thomas Kinnaird of Culbin died in embar-

rassed circumstances, and was succeeded by his son, Alexander Kinnaird. In the year 1693 the estate consisted of sixteen farms ; the rental was then £2720 Scots ; 640 bolls of wheat, 640 bolls of bere, 640 bolls of oats, and 640 bolls of oatmeal, besides salmon fishings, representing a yearly rental at the present day of perhaps £6000 sterling. In the autumn of 1694, or spring of 1695, the great blowing of sand took place, which nearly overwhelmed the estate ; and it seems to have been awfully sudden in the end. The family were ruined. Alexander Kinnaird sold the property, or rather the remains of it, on 27th July, 1698, to Alexander Duff of Drummuir, who on 25th February, 1725, disposed it to his second son, John Duff. In 1733 he sold it to Major George Grant of Grant, who in 1755 conveyed it to his nephew, Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant. His son, Sir James Grant, sold the estate in 1772, along with Moy, to Colonel Hugh Grant of the Sheuglie family, who left it to James Murray Grant, Esq. of Glenmorriston, the present proprietor.*

The estate of Kincorth successively pertained to a branch of the Falconers of Lethen, the Dunbars of Durn, and the Grants of Dalvey. It was purchased by the father of the present proprietor about the beginning of this century.

* On the subject of Culbin, we would refer to an interesting lecture delivered some years ago by Mr John Martin, late of the Elgin Institution, which well merits being published as a separate literary work ; and also to the antiquarian notes of Mr Fraser Mackintosh of Drummond, published at Inverness in 1865, pages 313 to 323.

KNOCKANDO HOUSE,

THE shooting quarters of William E. Cattley, Esq., is beautifully situated on a lofty eminence on the estate of Wester Elchies, about a mile from the Carron Station of the Strathspey Railway, and on the left bank of the Spey. It was built in 1732, by Ludovick Grant, and is a plain, substantial two-storey house, having a projecting entrance surmounted with pediment and ornaments, on which the effects of more than one hundred and thirty winters are plainly visible. Beneath the pediment are the family arms, over which is the motto "Honour and Virtue," and underneath "Lud. Grant," the name of the founder. On the west side is a short wing, containing the servants' hall and other apartments, with the stable and coach-house on the opposite side to correspond. These wings are covered with trellis-work, and are connected to the main building by low half-circular corridors—thus forming three sides of a square to the front. The dining room is on the first floor, at the east end, and the drawing-room at the opposite end, on the second storey. The garden lies to the rear of the house, on a fine terrace, with high brick wall protecting it on the north. The grounds are tastefully laid out in flower beds, forming one continuous flower garden, and from the elevated position, commands one of the most extensive and romantic prospects on Speyside. Almost beneath are the railway and the river, at the depth of several hundred feet, with the Drum of Carron on the opposite side, and the distant Convals to the east, forming an appropriate background. A few hundred yards east from

the house is the burn of Ballintomb. A short distance up this burn from the houses of Millhaugh, is the spot where the last capital crime committed in the county was perpetrated—the murder by Peter Cameron of his father-in-law, John Tulloch, in 1840—the circumstances connected with which are still fresh in the memories of many connected with this quarter. Cameron fled, and for several months eluded the vigilance of the authorities, but was captured and tried at the Inverness Circuit Court, when, after a lengthened trial the jury returned a verdict of culpable homicide, and he was transported for life.

LAGGAN HOUSE.

NEARLY opposite the mansion house of Carron, standing out in bold relief on a rising ground several hundred yards from the left bank of the Spey, is Laggan House, its red brick walls contrasting finely with the wooded hill behind, and the rich green haugh between it and the river. From the house to the Carron Station on the Strathspey Railway, the distance is rather more than a mile, by a footpath through a romantic wooded glade close to the river side. The approach from the north is by a rugged and precipitous road little better than a bridle path, by the edge of the Burn of Laggan—a wild mountain stream which rushes down the steep hill, splashing over huge boulders,

gushing from a rocky ledge, and hissing in the seething cauldron beneath, the water often hid from view by the birch and willow intertwining their branches across the deep chasm through which it runs. This elegant residence was built in 1861, by Captain Thomason, of the Royal Bengal Engineers, nephew of Mr Grant of Elchies, from plans prepared by himself. It is in the old Scottish villa style of architecture, and is in several respects a unique edifice. With the exception of the granite corners and the freestone lintels and cornices, it is wholly built of brick, the walls being hollow, but jointed at intervals to increase their stability. The rooms are well lighted and ventilated, the hollow walls being admirably adapted for these purposes, as well as for preventing damp. Beside the entrance is a well proportioned circular tower, rising to a height of about fifty feet, and terminating with a spire and ornamental finial. Over the doorway is a finely executed coat of arms, with the motto "Spero." The Drum of Carron to the west on the opposite side of the river, and directly in front Benrinnes with its lofty rocky scaur, combine to form a pleasant and romantic landscape.

LOGIE HOUSE,

IN the parish of Edinkillie, six miles above Forres, is built on the edge of a rising ground between the Findhorn and the Highland Railway, and is a handsome residence in the old baronial style of architecture, and was originally built by Robert Cumming of Logie, but greatly enlarged a few years since by the addition of a spacious wing at the west side. To the left of the entrance hall, on the ground floor is the dining-room, and in the newer portion of the building on the same floor are the drawing-room and library. A handsome staircase leads to the bedrooms on the next storey, above which are fine airy rooms with windows terminated by crow-stepped gables. The south elevation, where the ground slopes some eight or ten feet from the front, is four storeys high, having a large bow window rising to the second or drawing-room flat, above which are the other two storeys, terminating in a crow-stepped gable. At the south-west corner is a round turret, surmounted by a finial.

Robert Cumming of Altyre, who died in 1655, gave the estate of Logie to his younger son, John, ancestor of the present proprietrix, Emily Frances, widow of Captain Valiant Cumming, of the Bombay Lancers. The Captain—who was a younger son of Sir Thomas Valiant, K.C.B., a distinguished general officer—on his marriage, assumed the surname of Cumming, and resided permanently on the estate, upon which he effected many important improvements, and among others built the handsome and commodious school and school-house at Pitneisk, in the prosperity of the young connected with which he took a lively interest. He

was accidentally thrown from his carriage, and died at Bath in 1866, from the injuries he then sustained.*

* The family of Cumming of Logie has always been much respected in this county, and a short account of them may be acceptable to our readers. John Cumming, the first of Logie, was a Major in the British army. He married a daughter of Cumming of Birness, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert Cumming, who married Margaret, daughter of Andrew Leslie of Glen of Rothes, by whom he had three sons. By this marriage he acquired the Glen of Rothes, which still belongs to the family. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Alexander Cumming, who married, first, Lucy, daughter of Dunbar of Burgie, by whom he had no surviving issue; secondly, Grace, daughter of James Grant of Rothiemurchus, by whom he had one son, Robert, and several daughters. Robert, his only son, succeeded. At a somewhat advanced period of life he married Miss Lesley Baillie, a daughter of Mr Baillie, an Ayrshire proprietor, by whom he had five sons and one daughter. He died about the year 1813. Mrs Cumming, his widow, survived him for thirty years, and died in Edinburgh in 1843. She was a very prudent, excellent woman, and of most pleasant and engaging manners. In her early days she had been very beautiful, and has been immortalised by Robert Burns both in prose and verse—particularly in the song in her praise:—

“O, saw ye bonny Lesley,
As she gaed o'er the border;
She's gaen, like Alexander,
To spread her conquests farther.

“To see her is to love her,
And love but her for ever,
For Nature made her what she is,
And never made anither.

“Thou art a queen, fair Lesley,
Thy subjects we before thee;
Thou art divine, fair Lesley,
The hearts o' men adore thee.” *

Mr Cumming's five sons all went to India, and most of them died at an early age. The only survivor is the excellent, accomplished Dr William Cumming, author of some interesting works. The present proprietrix, Mrs Valiant Cumming, is a daughter of the eldest son, Alexander Cumming. She succeeded her elder sister, Leslie, a most amiable young lady, whose death was occasioned by her dress catching fire from the taper at which she was sealing a letter.

* See Nimmo's edition of Burn's Poems, page 392.

MILTON-BRODIE,

THE residence of the Rev. John Brodie Innes, in the parish of Alves, is about equi-distant from Forres and Burghead, on the south side of the old turnpike road. The low-lying nature of the ground, and the tall, thickly set trees by which it is surrounded, protect it from the effects of the north and east sea breezes, to which less sheltered grounds are exposed. The form of the house is nearly a square formed by four sections, two running parallel east and west, and two north and south ; the gables of the latter being almost on a line with the walls of the south front, are incorporated with it, and embellished by scrolls. The entrance is by a portico, supported on four massive freestone pillars. A flower garden and shrubberies adorn the lawn to the west, and on the north side is a very large beech tree, which at the height of about twelve feet from the ground branches into five arms, each the size of an ordinary trunk. There is an extensive fruit and kitchen garden in front of the house.

The estate of Milton-Brodie, formerly called Windyhills, belonged successively to Dundases, Dunbars, and Brodies. James Brodie of Windyhills, who died in the year 1741, left the estate to his kinsman, George Brodie, whose father had recently sold his paternal estate of Milton, now called Milton-Duff, in the parish of Elgin, to Lord Braco. George, who was a Captain of Dragoons, died in Spain in 1748, and was succeeded by his brother Alexander, whose grand-daughter, Mrs Brodie-Dun, died in 1861 without issue, when the estate was inherited by her cousin, the present proprietor.

MOY HOUSE.

THE manor house of Moy, in the level plain on the left bank of the river Findhorn, is about four miles distant from Forres by way of the Suspension Bridge, but crossing by the ferry-boat at Broom of Moy, to which there is a footpath past the house of Edgefield, the distance from Forres is only about a mile and a-half. It is a large plain unornamented house, three storeys high, with front of hewn freestone, the property of James Murray Grant, Esq. of Glenmorriston, and occupied by his son, Captain Grant. Except on the south side, on which the principal entrance formerly stood, a sunk passage runs round the house, across which, on the north side, a flight of steps leads to the entrance, which is formed in a recess, having a portico supported by two pillars. On the south side a wing projects at either end of the house, having the space between filled with flower beds and neatly trimmed shrubs. A park extends along the carriage drive to the north, and the garden and green-houses lie to the east, where there are also several very fine forest and park trees—one sycamore measuring twelve feet in circumference. Moy House, from its position and the generous hospitality of Mr Suter, who then occupied it, was the resort of all the families in that quarter who were driven from their homes or had their humble habitations carried away by the memorable flood of 1829. Mr Suter manfully exerted himself in

rescuing several families and conveying them to Moy House, where their wants were supplied.

The estate of Moy formerly belonged to a branch of the family of Cawdor, from whose hands it passed into those of the family of Grant of Grant, and from them it was purchased by Colonel Hugh Grant of the Indian army, who bequeathed it to the present proprietor.

NEWTON HOUSE,

THE property of Capt. Frederick P. Forteath, stands in the parish of Alves, three miles west from Elgin. It is a large and elegant baronial residence in the old Scottish style of architecture, having at each corner of the south elevation a well proportioned turret with slated roof. A short stair with balustrade leads to the entrance in a slightly projecting gable in the centre of the building. Over the doorway is the coat of arms and crest (a deer's head eraised;) on a scroll underneath is the motto, " Tam animo quam mente sublimis," and on either side are two pilasters, terminated by female heads supporting a deeply cut cornice, over which is a semi-circular window with male head on keystone, having on either side lions heads, from which are pendent clusters of fruit and flowers of rich, chaste design and beautiful workmanship. Over this again on the third storey is a fine oriel window, finished with a crow-stepped gable. The corner turrets spring from the centre of the third storey, and between their base and

the projecting entrance runs a cornice moulding, intersected by three horizontal freestone rain-spouts. The drawing-room is at the west end on the main floor, and is a large and elegant apartment the full breadth of the house, divided by folding doors. This room communicates with the conservatory, which has also an outside stair and balustrade similar to that at the principal entrance. The spacious and richly furnished dining-room is on the same floor at the right side of the entrance lobby. In the east gable is the breakfast parlour, having a fine oriel window, ornamented at each angle of its base by female heads. Two extending wings to the north form a court at the entrance to the lower apartments. On the west wing is the date 1793, the year in which the old house was erected ; and on the other is 1852, the year in which it was enlarged and remodelled. An extensive park, studded with fine trees and clumps of laurel and rhododendrons, stretches along the rising ground to the quarry at the base of the Knock of Alves—a wood-crowned eminence rising to the height of several hundred feet above sea level. Like the Blasted Heath, this hill has been rendered famous by the tradition of a meeting of Macbeth and the witches on the spot.

“ The fam’d Knock o’ Alves,
Where fairies and spirits repair,
To revel and dance on the moon-beams,
Or trip it o’er meadows o’ air.”

“ Strange sounds and stranger sights” are ascribed to this favourite haunt of the fairy tribe. But “ Othello’s occupation’s gone,” and nobody’s ears are now “ saluted

with the dulcet strains of the most enchanting music," or their eyes ravished with the sight of "thousands of fairies, men and women, tripping it on the light fantastic toe." It has an open circular space on the top, where Alexander Forteath, Esq., erected in 1827 an octagonal tower of three storeys, with battlements, to the memory of the Duke of York. From the top of this tower an extensive view of the surrounding country is obtained, including portions of nine counties—the Hill of Heldon, the Manoch Hill, and the bold outlines of Benrinnes, closed in on the east by the distant hills in Aberdeenshire; the Moray Frith for miles both east and west, with the serrated hills of Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness. Over the town of Burghead the Tarbetness Lighthouse and the massive proportions of Dunrobin Castle are seen as if nestling at the foot of the huge dark hills beyond. At the north-west corner of the tower is the family mausoleum, which is cut from the solid rock, and has an arched roof to support the massive altar monument erected over it. There are eight granite inscription panels on the monument, which record the death of members of the family. Over the inscription panels is a pediment, bearing on each corner a Scotch thistle, on its two sides the family crest, and on either end a laurel wreath with flowing ribbon. The monument is enclosed with a strong iron railing.

The estate was purchased from the Hon. Arthur Duff of Orton in 1793 by George Forteath, Esq. He died in 1815, and was succeeded by his nephew, Alexander Forteath, Esq., who was a Deputy-Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the county. He married

Clementina, daughter of William Robertson, Esq. of Auchinroath, and had a family of nine sons and three daughters. He died in 1850, when his eldest son, George Alexander Forteath, succeeded to the estate. On his death in 1862, his brother Alexander, of the Royal Dragoons, succeeded. He died at Hastings in 1866, and the estate now belongs to his youngest and only surviving brother, Captain Frederick Prescott Forteath.

ORTON HOUSE,

THE residence of Captain Alexander Thomas Wharton Duff, is situated in the parish of Rothes, on the east side of the Highland Railway, about a mile from the Orton Station. The approaches, which are skirted with evergreens and flowering shrubs, enter from the old turnpike road at the south and north ends of the grounds, and wind through an extensive park finely studded with large hardwood and ornamental trees, till they meet in front of the house. It is a large, elegant modern building, with a small wing attached at each end ; a balcony runs round the top of the centre block, and a large bow window on the north rises the height of the third storey. On the south front, a massive portico, supported on four large pillars and surmounted with a balustrade, leads to the entrance on the principal floor, which contains a spacious lobby, dining-room, two drawing-rooms, business room and bed-room ; the next floor is occupied by the library, billiard-room, bed-rooms, and other apartments, all being embellished with many family and other paintings. North of the mansion

house stands the home farm steading, and on the south, near the entrance to the park, are the gardens, surrounded by a high wall, and containing hot-house, green-house, and viney. They are well sheltered from the north winds, and have a fine warm exposure to the sun. About a mile to the eastward of the mansion house is a beautiful mausoleum, in the form of a Gothic Chapel, erected by the late Richard Wharton Duff, Esq., in 1844, to the memory of his uncle. The entrance consists of two oak valves, placed in elegant arched doorways, and the windows and ornaments are pure Gothic. Within the mausoleum, on marble tablets, are inscriptions in memory of the late Richard Wharton Duff, Esq., his wife, Lady Ann Duff, and his two daughters ; and also to the memory of his father mother, eldest sister, and uncle. The building is enclosed by a stone wall six feet high. Its site was originally covered by a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, that for ages had been in ruins ; and connected with it was a well, long held in superstitious reverence.

The estate of Orton of old belonged to a family of the name of Dumbreck. It was purchased about the middle of last century by William, Earl of Fife, who conveyed it to his youngest son, the Hon. Arthur Duff. On his death in 1805, he was succeeded by his nephew, Richard Wharton, Esq., who assumed the surname of Duff, and married his cousin, Lady Ann Duff, by whom he had issue a son and three daughters. He purchased the adjoining estate of Garbity from the trustees of the late Duke of Gordon. He died in 1862, and was succeeded by his son, Captain Alexander Thomas Wharton Duff, late 93d Regiment, who is now proprietor.

PITGAVENY HOUSE

Is the property of Lady Dunbar Brander, and is situated in the parish of St Andrews-Lhanbryd, on the east side of the Morayshire Railway, about three miles north-east from Elgin. The approach winds along a gentle acclivity between the old orchard and garden, and the grounds are enclosed and ornamented with thriving plantations. The house, which is understood to be after a Portuguese model, is four storeys in height, having a double-ridged roof, rising so far within a battlement as to form a pleasant promenade around. The principal entrance is on the west, between two lofty Doric columns, rising from the top of a flight of steps and supporting a massive pediment above ; it opens into the first floor, which besides the entrance hall contains dining-room, parlour, and library. The drawing-room and bed-rooms occupy the second floor, above which there are several other bed-rooms. The promenade on the top of the house commands an extensive and varied prospect ; on the west are broad corn fields, the wooded hill of Quarrywood, and the old Palace of Spynie ; on the east is the gentle-flowing Lossie, with Innes House peering through its bowers of trees ; while away on the north stretches the Moray Frith, and the tops of the blue hills on the opposite coast.

The estate of Pitgaveny, was part of the lands belonging to the Bishopric of Moray, and some time pertained to a branch of the Brodies of Lethen. It was purchased about a century ago by James Brander, Esq., whose son and successor, John Brander, Esq., died in 1826, leav-

ing a son and daughter—James, a Lieut.-Colonel in the army, and Mary, who married the late Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Bart. Lieutenant-Colonel Brander, who succeeded his father as heir to the estate, served with the 42d Highlanders in the Peninsular war, and at Waterloo, where he was severely wounded. On the death of this gallant officer in 1854, his sister, the dowager Lady Dunbar, succeeded to the estate, and assumed the additional surname of Brander. Her son and heir is Captain James Brander Dunbar of the Scots Greys. Besides Pitgaveny, the estate comprehends the ancient barony of Kineddar, on which the villages of Lossiemouth and Branderburgh, with their thriving sea-port, are situated.



RELUGAS HOUSE,

THE property of George R. Smith, Esq., is situated in the parish of Edinkillie, on the west side of the Highland Railway, about seven miles from Forres. This romantic residence stands on an elevated ground between the rivers Divie and Findhorn, a short distance from their confluence. It is embowered amid a profusion of stately trees, and embellished by a combination of the rarest natural and artificial beauties, which render it one of the most striking and picturesque gentlemen's seats in the north. It is of an irregular

cottage form, and has been built from time to time by different proprietors. Part of the old building still remains, bearing the date 1785. The somewhat plain appearance of the front is relieved by a large massive *porte-cochere*. In front of the house is a fine green sward, and beyond it a farther continuation of the lawn, studded with park and ornamental trees. The gardens are placed along the rugged banks of the Divie, having at the upper end, close beside the river, an arbour nestling among the trees, from which an excellent view of the river above is obtained. In 1865, the proprietor of Relugas erected, near Randolph's Bridge on the bank of the Findhorn, a tablet with a Latin inscription, in token of gratitude to Major C. L. Cumming Bruce of Dunphail, M.P., for having designed the pleasant walks through the woods and rocks along the hitherto almost inaccessible banks of the Findhorn.

The estate of Relugas has passed through many hands. The Cumins of Relugas, formerly of Presley, were a family of influence in the country, and several of its members were men of eminence in their respective walks in life. They claimed direct descent from Lord Badenoch. Dr Duncan Cumin, youngest son of James of Relugas, was physician to King William's army at the battle of Boyne in 1690. He settled afterwards in Dublin, where he got up a subscription with which he endowed three schools in his native parish. These schools continue to be of great benefit to the inhabitants. The Rev. Patrick Cumin of Relugas, D.D., Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, was a person of great abilities,

and during the middle of last century was among the most prominent public men in Scotland. He directed the whole Crown patronage of the Church of Scotland, and for upwards of twenty years was the leader of the General Assembly, the business of which he conducted with great caution and talent, avoiding extreme measures of every kind. He lived to an advanced age. Having a large family to provide for, he sold the estate to his younger son George, a Writer to the Signet, who, on acquiring the property, set about improving its rugged, bare, and unpromising appearance, planted and enclosed large tracts, and introduced many modern improvements in agriculture. His exquisite taste, combined with the romantic scenery of its two rivers, has made Relugas a spot of peculiar attraction to every admirer of rural beauty. He died in 1804, leaving an only daughter, Charles Anne Cumin, who married her third cousin, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Bart. of Grange and Fountainhall, the well-known author of the "History of the Moray Floods" in '29, the "Wolfe of Badenoch," "Lochindorb," &c. In 1847 the estate was sold to William M'Killigin, Esq., of Ceylon, and on his death in 1852, it was purchased by the present proprietor, G. R. Smith, Esq., head of the firm of Smith, Payne, and Smith, bankers, London.



SEA-PARK.

ABOUT two and a-half miles north-east of Forres, on the Burghead road, a neat porter-lodge marks the entrance to the grounds of Sea-Park. The mansion-house has been at various times enlarged, having been originally built in the cottage style. The internal arrangement is most commodious, containing handsome dining-room, drawing-room, library, parlour, and boudoir on the first floor, and ten bed-rooms above, besides ample accommodation for servants. Attached to the house are two large and very beautiful conservatories ; the flower gardens are admirably arranged ; and there is a most productive kitchen garden, with forcing-house and vinery. We recommend a visit to

these grounds and to the adjacent Abbey of Kinloss, belonging to the same proprietor.

The lands of Sea-Park, then designed Eunies Crook, were granted, 4th January, 1574, by Walter, Abbot of the Monastery of Kinloss, to William Ellison and Janet Niven, his spouse, and remained in the possession of their descendants until 26th December, 1800. They subsequently became the property of James Rose, Esq., surgeon in the Royal Navy, who sold them in February, 1829, to Frederick Suter, Esq., from whose younger brother they were bought in August, 1838, by John Dunbar, Esq.* Our woodcut illustration represents the house as it stood when bought by Mr Dunbar, who afterwards greatly enlarged it, and also much improved the pleasure grounds. Mr Dunbar died in December, 1845, leaving his property to his youngest sister, who thereafter married Captain Edward Dunbar, of the 22d Regiment, a younger son of Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield, Bart., by his first wife, Helen Penuel, daughter of Sir Alexander Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstown, Bart. Captain Dunbar afterwards, having by authority of the Court of Session assumed the additional surname of Dunbar, exchanged into the 21st Fusiliers. He has now sold out of the army, and devotes much time to antiquarian pursuits. His recent publication, "Social Life in Former Days," was most favourably reviewed by the *Times* and other London journals, as also by the Edinburgh and the provincial press.

* His brother, Duncan Dunbar of Limehouse, London, who died in 1862, was owner of the largest fleet of merchantmen possessed by one individual in Great Britain, or, perhaps, in the world.

SANQUHAR HOUSE.

SANQUHAR HOUSE, the seat of Charles Edward Fraser-Tytler, Esq., is situated on a rising ground on the south side of the town of Forres, having an approach from either end of the town, and another from the Grantown road to the west. This elegant mansion, which was much enlarged in 1863, is a large oblong building of two storeys, in the Elizabethian style of architecture, and is nearly in the form of a double cross, having a section with projecting gables crossing the centre building at the east end, and a similar one near the west. A short distance from the latter section, and on the north-west corner of the building, is an octagonal tower, three storeys high. The entrance to the house is on the north side, by a handsome porch of polished freestone, surmounted by a balustrade. At the east is a beautiful conservatory, two storeys high, and fitted up with exquisite taste. Access to the upper storey is obtained either from the drawing-room or by a rustic stair outside. On the south, in the recess between the two gables, is an ornamental iron verandah communicating with the dining-room, and having a double flight of steps leading to the flower garden, from which the grounds descend by undulating terraces, intersected by gravel walks and studded with fine park trees. On the north, at the foot of the steep bank in front of the house is a large artificial lake, surrounded by tall trees and dotted with islands which are covered with fine flowering shrubs. At a short distance to the east is the kitchen garden, with the peach-house, vinery, and forc-

ing-house. From the elevated situation of Sanquhar House a fine view of the town of Forres is obtained, with the sandy desert of Culbin, and the Moray Frith in the distance.

The estate of Sanquhar formerly belonged to the Dunbars of Tarbet, from whom, about two hundred years ago, it appears to have been purchased by the Urquharts of Burdsyards, an old branch of the ancient house of Urquhart of Cromarty. It was sold by Robert Urquhart, the last of that family, to George Grant, Esq., about the close of last century. Mr Grant's daughter and heiress married William Fraser-Tytler, Esq. of Aldourie, and their son is now proprietor.

TULCHAN LODGE.

TULCHAN LODGE stands on the left bank of the Spey, about two miles west from the Advie Station of the Strathspey Railway, in the parish of Cromdale. It is the property of the Right Hon. the Earl of Seafield, and is pleasantly situated in an opening on the shoulder of a large wooded hill overlooking the river and a brawling burn at the bottom of a deep ravine. It is a handsome house of two storeys, built in the cottage style, with projecting wing at the back, and contains ample accommodation for a large family. It was erected about twenty years ago, expressly as a shooting lodge for the tenant of the Tulchan shootings. Mr Bass, M.P., the present tenant, has opened up the romantic scenery along the Spey and the burn of Altquoich by a series of fine walks. The view from these walks and from the Lodge is most

magnificent, and of a truly Highland character. On the west and north it is confined by the steep heath-clad Tulchan hills, on the south a grand array of mountain summits jostle each other, while the fertile valley of the Spey stretches eastward with a long winding sweep. The estate of Tulchan was a separate barony in the fourteenth century. It subsequently passed into the Ballindalloch family, through whose hands it fell into those of the present proprietor.

WESTFIELD HOUSE,

THE property of Hugh M'Lean, Esq., who, however, generally resides at Hythe-Hill, Elgin, lies in the parish of Duffus, about four miles from Elgin. It is a plain country residence, two storeys high, to which several small additions have at different times been made. At the entrance, on the south side, is a porch resting on four polished freestone pillars. In the rear and to the west side of the house is the garden, enclosed on the north by a high wall, and on the south by a wall and massive iron railing. The magnificent home-farm steading erected by the present proprietor is not equalled by any in the county, either in respect of compactness of arrangement, beauty of design, or substantiality of the workmanship.

Westfield formed part of the estate given to Sir Alexander Dunbar, son of the Earl of Moray in 1450, who was also created hereditary Sheriff of the County, an office which continued in the family for nearly three hundred years. He married a daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, of which marriage all the families

of the name of Dunbar in Scotland are said to be descended. The estate continued in the family till 1769, when it was bought by Sir James Grant of Grant, who four years afterwards sold it to Joseph Robertson, Esq., a merchant in London. He sold it again in 1784 to Francis Russell, Esq. of Blackhall, an advocate in Edinburgh, and on his death in 1806 his widow sold it to Thomas Sellar, Esq., writer in Elgin, one of the leading men of the city, who died in 1816, and left it to his son, Patrick Sellar, then factor for the Duke of Sutherland. In 1862 his representatives sold the estate to the present proprietor, Hugh M'Lean, Esq., formerly in the H.E.I.C.S., who has carried out very extensive improvements.

WESTERTOWN HOUSE

Is situated in the valley of Pluscarden, a short distance west from the Priory, and about seven miles from Elgin. It is the property of the Right Hon. the Earl of Fife, and occupied as shooting quarters by Frederick George, Esq., London. At the entrance to the grounds is a neat porter lodge, from whence the approach winds for about half a mile through a fine thriving hardwood plantation, and terminates in a wide circular space in front of the house. It is an elegant two-storey building in the castellated form, with embattled walls and corner turrets, having a massive square tower in the centre, which rises to a considerable height above the other portion of the building, and two large spacious wings, one storey high, with characteristic battlements and turrets. The walls are built of blue and red

granite, quarried from the estate and roughly dressed, the lintels, cornices, and ornamental mouldings being of smoothly dressed freestone. The principal entrance is by a portico supported on two handsome columns, above which is a large Gothic window ; the windows and ornaments of the side wings are also of the Gothic order of architecture. At the south side of the lawn in front of the house is a picturesque artificial lake, which covers more than two acres of land ; it is enclosed by trees on the rising ground at the south side and separated from the lawn by tall laurel and bay trees. From the top of the tower a magnificent view may be had of the beautiful valley—closed in as it is on either side by the steep wooded hills of Heldon and Kellas ; and the prospect extends over fertile fields and the hoary walls of the Abbey, to the higher grounds around the City of Elgin and the distant hills of Banffshire.

The estate of Westertown was a part of the Priory lands of Pluscarden, feued out at the Reformation. It long pertained to the family of Watson of Coltfield and Westertown, and in the end of last century belonged to Peter Rose Watson, Esq. of Coltfield, from whose heirs it was purchased by Colonel Hay in 1813, who built the present house, formed the artificial lake, planted a large extent of timber, and otherwise greatly improved the estate. The Colonel died in 1845, leaving the estate to his second son, David, a Lieutenant in the Madras Cavalry ; after whose death in 1854, it was sold to the Hon. George Skene Duff of Milton-Duff, who shortly afterwards exchanged it for the estate of Ardgay in the parish of Alves, and it is now the property of his brother, the Earl of Fife.



SLEZER'S VIEW OF ELGIN IN 1693.

ELGIN.

“ Elgin was a toon,
A toon to live an’ dee in.”—WILLIAM HAY.

THE City or Royal Burgh of Elgin, the capital of Morayshire, is situated 195 miles north of Edinburgh, by the Highland Railway via Dunkeld and Forres, and 225 by way of Aberdeen and Keith. There are many conjectures as to the origin of the name of Elgin, but the one generally believed is, that it is derived from Helgy, a victorious general who overran the country about 927, and probably made a settlement at Elgin; and as the word Helgyn is still used in the inscription on the corporation seal, it is probable that this etymology is correct. It seems to have been a favourite Royal residence for many centuries, for we find several of the kings of Scotland visiting it, probably to enjoy the sport of hunting in the neighbouring Royal forests. It was a Royal burgh in the reign of David I.; and in the reign of

Alexander II. (who granted a Royal charter in favour of the burgh, still carefully preserved) the episcopal see was translated from Spynie to Elgin. Towards the close of the thirteenth century Elgin was probably unsurpassed in regard to the number of its ecclesiastical buildings by any episcopal city in Scotland. It had a church dedicated to St Giles, the patron saint of the town—a monastery of Black and one of Grey Friars—a preceptory of Knights Templars—a commandery of Knights Hospitallers of St John—a house of the Brethren of St Lazarus—and an Hospital called Maison Dieu. After the settlement of the episcopal see and the building of the Cathedral, Elgin gradually increased in importance and attractiveness—being at the time the principal seat of learning and refinement north of Aberdeen, till the Reformation despoiled it of its ancient glory. The town had four ports, and the presumption therefore is, that it was originally surrounded by some defensive work—probably by a palisade. The East Port, which stood near the Bede-house, is mentioned as early as the year 1242. The West Port was situated at West Park; the South—or Smithy Port, as it was called—at the south end of Commerce Street, formerly called the School Wynd; and the North Port at the middle of the Lossie Wynd. The practice of exposing the limbs of criminals after execution on the ports was followed down to as late a period as the year 1713, when the head of a man, who had been executed for murder, was placed on the Tolbooth, and one of his arms on the East Port and the other on the West Port, in completion of the sentence that had been passed on him.

By the kindness of Captain Dunbar Dunbar of Sea-Park, we are enabled to give the accompanying sketch of Elgin from Slezer's Views in Scotland, published in 1693, which is very curious and interesting, showing, as it does, the general appearance of the town towards the end of the seventeenth century. The view is taken from the rising ground in Bishopmill, about the spot now occupied by the garden of Millbank. In the foreground are steep rugged banks, at the foot of which, on the right hand, stand the Bishop's mills, and on the left is the fouling or waulkmill—the latter being driven by the same water as the former, just as at the present day. Midway between them and the town the gentle Lossie is seen flowing through the broad flat haugh. On the extreme right is the Lady-hill, with a considerable portion of the ruins of the ancient castle on its summit, while from its base the garden walls are seen stretching eastward. The first object which attracts attention in the town is the square massive battlemented tower of the great mansion formerly occupied by the Earls of Moray, thereafter pertaining to Lord Duffus, and latterly called Thunderton House—

“An’ Thunderton upreared
Its bartizan sae crouse.”

Next comes the old kirk of St Giles, with its quaint looking tower. The principal thing which will attract the attention of the older portion of those acquainted with Elgin, is the want, in this part of the picture, of the old Jail, but it was not built until about the year 1719, being more than twenty years after this view was taken, its site being then occupied by

a low wooden erection, which served as a place for the confinement of prisoners. The Muckle Kirk was a place of great antiquity, and was probably built at a much earlier date than the Cathedral. Part of the roof fell in between sermons one Sunday in 1679, but it was rebuilt in the old manner, and stood till 1828, when it was taken down to give place to the present handsome structure.* After passing the Kirk, there

* The glory of the Muckle Kirk was thus quaintly sung by William Hay, at one of the Edinburgh Morayshire Society meetings :—

The subject o' my song
I quickly will you show, Sir—
It is the Muckle Kirk,
Some twenty years ago, Sir.
Thus future times shall know
What a glorious Kirk we had, Sir,
And Moray loons may learn
How pious were their dads, Sir.

'Tis Sunday, and the bells
Are summoning the people,
And Parkey's peepin' o'er,
Wi' his bonnet, frae the steeple,
To ring the person in
O' the Parson, in his goun, Sir,
Wi' his sermon in his pouch,
Who is joggin' doun the toun, Sir.

But, hark ! the Bailies come,
Wi' their Officers before them ;
Proud, could they now look up,
Would the mithers be that bore them.
And having reached the door,
Wi' their halbersts form a sentry,
And while the Bailies pass,
Stand booin' at the entry.

And now the Trades draw near,
Wi' order and decorum,
And, proud as Bubbly Jocks,
Their Deacons strut before them.
Their glory is so great,
Oh ! let flesh and blood forgie them ;
And as the folks gang in,
So let us enter wi' them.

The Bailies now behold
In a' their crimson state, Sir,
Who next the pulpit sit,
In honour very great, Sir ;
Shooting terror from their eyes
On all rogues whom they can see,
A " protection and a praise"
To loons like you and me.

The Sutors next you see,
Who this maxim ne'er forget, Sir—
" Leather winna work
Except it first be wet, Sir."
All human flesh is grass,
And all grass maun hae a steepin' ;
Last nicht they were sae fou,
That the whole o' them are sleepin'.

Next come we to the Smiths,
Whose skins no wash could scour, Sir,
Like niggers did they grin,
Like tigers did they glower, Sir.
Behind them was a place,
Remote from all decorum—
A lounge for loons like me—
Our *Sanctissimum Sanctorum*.

The Glovers, though but two,
Were each worthy o' the other ;
James Elder was the one,
Rob Blancher was his brother.
Great men renowned for fat,
The most weighty in the nation—
They made, though only two,
A most solid Corporation.

The Tailors—where are they ?
Those fractionals o' men, Sir ;
Look forward, and behold
Yon gruesome looking den, Sir ;
There the Weavers and the Snips,
Like owls that love the night, Sir,
Or like clippins, or like thrums,
Are huddled out o' sight, Sir.

See the Carpenters aloft,
Like eagles proudly soaring ;
Hear the thunder of their beaks,
For most of them are snoring.
Ye sinful wicked Wrights,
Why slumber ye and sleep,
When your Minister's below
' Mong " the wonders of the deep ?"

is little to attract the eye till we come to three high houses standing near the Little Cross, but there is neither record nor tradition by which we can trace anything regarding them, except that a large house known by the mysterious name of "Lady High House" was situated in Courant Court, and part of the ruins was taken down so lately as 1841, to give place to new buildings. At the extreme left are seen the ruins of the Cathedral, with a portion of the centre tower standing considerably higher than the two western ones.

Elgin continued its prosperous career. As the number of inhabitants increased, tradesmen and shopkeepers also multiplied, to supply their wants. The civil affairs of the City were administered by a Provost, Bailies, and Town Council, although at one time there seems to have been no provost for nearly twenty years ; and there being no proper place of meeting, the Council convened "at the Clerk's house, St Giles Kirk, or in George Brodie's fore house," as the case might be, until a new Tolbooth was erected. The different craftsmen formed themselves into corporations, and gradually acquired property in the town and neighbourhood. In 1714 the Guildry Society was formed, to which, in 1850, a Parliamentary Act of Incorporation was granted, and it now owns a considerable extent of landed property.

About the year 1821, a new impetus was given to industry and commercial enterprise. The streets were then causewayed, and side pavements formed ; and at a more recent date, an extensive system of underground sewers was constructed along the principal streets.

In 1830 gas was introduced, and in 1845 a supply of excellent water was brought from a distance of six miles ; but this supply being insufficient for the increasing demands of the inhabitants, new pipes were laid down in 1850, double the size of that originally used. In that year, commodious market buildings were erected, and the fish and flesh markets removed from the street. But no event that had ever before transpired put such life and animation into the mercantile community as the opening of the different lines of railway in the district. In 1858 the Town Council enacted and declared that from henceforth the ancient style and title of the City of Elgin should be strictly observed—Elgin having been designated a city in the thirteenth century, and was still recognised as such by public acts passing under its civic seal (*sigillum commune civitatis de Helgyn.*) The burgh boundaries were also extended in the same year, so that the inhabitants of Bishopmill, Newmill, &c., were admitted to municipal privileges. Part of the parishes of St Andrews-Lhanbryd and New-Spynie are thus within the City or Royal Burgh.

A striking feature of the City of Elgin at the present day, apart from the salubrity of its climate, its natural advantages as to situation, and the beauty of its surrounding landscape, is the number of its suburban villas, with their tastefully kept gardens, surrounded by tall slender poplars or shady beech, denoting the affluence and highly cultivated taste of the inhabitants. Gentlemen of independent fortune who are attracted to it by these advantages, and the benefits of its excellent educational institutions, are gradually occup-

ing the eligible sites for building purposes which abound in all directions around this tidy little city, and in the absence of extensive mining and manufacturing operations, give employment to its numerous merchants and tradesmen. The High Street, as a place of residence, is being gradually forsaken by the well-to-do merchants and wealthier class of tradesmen, who prefer to live at a distance from their places of business, and are building self-contained houses for themselves in the outskirts, of a size and style to suit the requirements of their families or their means.

The arms of the burgh are Saint Giles in a pastoral habit, holding a book in the right hand, and a pastoral staff in the left. The motto is "Sic itur ad Astra," such is the way to heaven.

Having thus given a brief sketch of what Elgin has been, we purpose now to conduct our readers to the suburban residences within the Parliamentary boundary, and to the various objects of antiquity and interest—in other words, to describe the City of Elgin in 1867.

PALMERCROSS HOUSE.

At the south-western extremity of the burgh boundary is Palmercross House, the property of William Hay Leith, Esq., who, however, resides during the greater part of the year in London. The first house built on this compact little property was erected by the late Robert Young, Esq., by whose representatives it was sold to Sir Alexander Anderson, who disposed of it to Charles Smith, Esq., of Jamaica, from whom it was purchased by the present proprietor, who greatly enlarged the house by adding

another storey to its height, and making several large additions. It is now a fine residence of three storeys, with the entrance facing westward, and is very pleasantly situated on the banks of the Lossie. Above the doorway is a segment window, with a miniature pilaster on either side, and an inscription panel over the keystone. The drawing-room is on the south side, and the dining-room on the north, each having a large bow window. South of the house is the garden, which is surrounded by a high wall, and has a fine southern exposure, which combine to make it both early and productive. Besides the large greenhouse, which is situated within the garden, there is an excellent forcing-house outside the wall. This property has taken its name from the “Palmer fuird,” where the road from Elgin to the Abbey of Pluscarden crossed the Lossie in the days when weary pilgrims, with palmer’s staff and gown, wound their way from shrine to shrine. In the end of the sixteenth century several sums were disbursed by the Elgin Town Council for mending the stepping stones, and for “ane aike tree to the brig at Lossie.” A substantial stone bridge of two arches spans the river at this point. It was erected by the Commutation Road Trustees of the Elgin district about the year 1815.

FLEURS

Stands a few hundred yards east from Palmercross, on the north side of the road. It is the property and residence of William Young, Esq. of Burghead, and is surrounded by trees and enclosed by a stone wall; but from its elevated situation it commands an extensive prospect along the hills on either side of the Glen of

Rothes to the top of Benrinnes. The house is a large three storey block, with a wing attached to the east end. A flight of steps leads to the entrance, over which is a balcony supported by two pillars, and forming a connection between the bay windows on either side. Fleurs was built in 1829, by the late William Young, Esq., on whose death in 1842 it fell to his nephew, the present proprietor, by whom it has been enlarged and improved. The lands of Fleurs extend eastwards to the road leading from Elgin to the West Brewery, which here separates them from

THE ELGIN DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM,

Which was originally built in 1834 by voluntary assessment on the landowners of the county. After the passing of the Lunacy Act, it became necessary to erect an asylum with ample accommodation for the insane of the county. In 1865 the directors sold the old buildings and site to the new Lunacy Board, who built the present handsome, commodious, and substantial structure. Generally speaking, the house may be said to consist of three ranges of building two storeys high, running parallel to each other, but joined together in front so as to give it the appearance of one solid block. It has ample covered airing grounds. Besides the ground within the walls, the Board have a long lease of a tract of land on the estate of Main, belonging to Col. the Hon. James Grant, the cultivation and improvement of which afford excellent exercise and amusement to those of the inmates who are able for out-door exercise.

GRAY'S HOSPITAL.

Adjoining the Asylum, and between it and the town, is Gray's Hospital, which stands on the edge of a rising ground, overlooking the High Street. This handsome structure was erected at a cost of £6000, as an hospital for the sick poor of the county, and was opened for the reception of patients in 1819. It is a fine specimen of the Roman style of architecture. The front is of polished freestone, embellished by four handsome Doric columns, which rise to the third storey, and support a massive entablature, from the ends of which a high balustrade extends to the two front corners of the building. In the centre is a large clock and bell tower, surmounted by a dome and vane, which form one of the most conspicuous objects in the city, and is seen for many miles around. On the ground floor of the house are apartments for the resident physician and matron, the dispensary, &c. On the second storey are lofty, well-lighted, and airy wards for ordinary patients, the males occupying the north end and the females the south. The third storey is set apart for fever and small-pox patients, a separate entrance having recently been formed for the latter class. Dr Alexander Gray, the benevolent founder of this institution, was a native of Elgin, and having acquired an ample fortune while in the service of the East India Company, he bequeathed the munificent sum of £20,000 for the building and endowment of an hospital. He also left a sum of £2000, the yearly interest of which was to be applied for "the use of the reputed old maids in the town of Elgin," or, as the

editor of Shaw's History of Moray (1827) pithily puts it, "for the comfort of ten virgins whose hope had departed and whose means were decayed." He bequeathed a further sum of £4000, which, on the death of his wife, was to be applied to the building of a church. The latter legacy not being required for that purpose, the interest was applied for the use of the hospital. The trustees under the will and the parish ministers throughout the county grant certificates of admission to patients. Besides the resident physician, two medical attendants visit the Hospital daily; and a committee of the Town Council inspect it monthly, and report to the Council the number of patients, and the general condition of the establishment. North from the Hospital, on the opposite side of the Forres road, is

BRAELOSSIE HOUSE,

In which the amenities of a country and suburban residence are combined. This beautiful mansion was erected in 1863, by Alex. Lawson, Esq. It is of the old Scottish baronial style of architecture, its crow-stepped gables, dormor windows, circular turrets, and sharp-pointed spire being in excellent harmony with the elevated and picturesque Connet Hill on which it stands. On the west the ground descends abruptly by shady walks to the edge of the Lossie, and on the east the descent is still more precipitous, and in the form of a crescent, to the plain at the farm-steading of Oldmills. The entrance is on the west side, by a spacious porch, opening into an elegantly finished lobby, which communicates with the principal apart-

ments. There are three very fine bay windows, from which, and also from a platform on the top of the house, a wide range of town and country scenery may be surveyed. Leaving Braelossie behind, we enter West Road. The principal residence on the left is *The Cottage* pertaining to Miss Robertson—a very handsome two-storey building, with ornamental cornices over the door and windows, but it is almost hid from view by the surrounding trees. On the opposite side are *West House*, belonging to Miss Hay, and *West Lodge*, the property of Mrs Gordon.

MARYHILL HOUSE.

On the rising ground between the Market Green and the road leading to Oldmills and Duffus, is the elegant residence of William Anderson, Esq. It is a large square block of building, three storeys high, in the Italian style of architecture, and in point of external embellishment, the magnificence of its internal decorations, and the costliness of its furniture, is one of the finest residences to be met with either in town or country. On the south elevation is a massive porch with richly carved mouldings around the doorway. The porch leads to the entrance lobby, which has a lofty groined roof, over which is a well proportioned square tower, rising several feet above the entire building. On the west side of the entrance lobby is the drawing-room, with the dining-room on the east. Both are superb apartments, and lighted with two very large bow windows, the centre division of which is filled with one immense sheet of plate glass. The windows of the billiard-room and sitting-

room at the rear of the house are of the Venetian order, and like the others are filled with the finest plate glass. All these windows, as well as the porch and centre tower, are surmounted by a balustrade, having large ornamental vases with rich festoons of flowers, at their angles. On the top of the house is a level space, surrounded by a strong, handsome railing. The grounds in front are tastefully laid out, and enclosed by a dwarf wall and iron railing of a very elaborate and elegant design. At the west side of the house is a flower garden, and between it and the kitchen and fruit garden is an oval croquet green. The garden, which is of a triangular shape, is surrounded by a high stone wall, partly faced with brick. In one corner is the greenhouse ; in the corner nearest Oldmills are the stables and coach-house ; and at the third or upper corner is a bridge connecting the grounds with the garden—the footway leading to Lossie and the Ladies' Walk passing between them. At the bottom of the steep brae on this road is the famous *Mary Well*, the water of which is said to be colder and of more specific gravity in summer than in winter. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and supplied the water consecrated to religious purposes for the Chapel of the Virgin on Ladyhill, the Monastery of Blackfriars, and the Cathedral. It has undergone several transformations, and is now built in a substantial manner into the stone wall, and a strong iron drinking ladle attached. The property of Maryhill for many years pertained partly to the Elgin Guildry Society and partly to the Magistrates of Elgin, and was acquired in 1817 by the late William Young, Esq. of Burg-

head, who erected the original mansion. In 1866 it was purchased by William Anderson, Esq.

In front of Maryhill House the terminations of High Street and South Street branch off to Pluscarden, Forres, and Duffus. Glancing southward from this point, the first object that attracts attention is *Park Place*, a fine three-storey house, surrounded by trees ; beyond it, and standing prominently out between the houses in *Lamb's Place* and *West Villa*, is *Clan Allan*, with its ornamented porch, bay windows, and sharp pointed gables. At this point, where West Park Road crosses the end of South Street, is the entrance to the house and grounds of West Park ; on the opposite side of the road from which is *Fife Park Villa*. Passing eastward from the entrance to Maryhill House, on the right is *Annie Cottage*, on the left are *Henry Cottage* and *Ivy Cottage*, all substantial, elegant, and comfortable residences. Crossing the *Market Green*, formerly called Gallows Green, for an obvious enough reason, we beg to act as chaperon to climb the steep side of

LADYHILL,

Where an admirable bird's-eye view of the City and surrounding country is obtained. The massive fragments of walls now standing are all that remain of "the good castell" of Elgin, which in all probability was built by David I. Mention is made of it by Malcolm IV. in 1160. William the Lion held a court in it ; and here Alexander II. granted the Royal charter to the City, and often resided between the years 1221 and 1234. Alexander III. occupied it in 1263 ; and when Edward I. of England invaded Scotland in 1296,

he took up his quarters there ; but on his return to Elgin in September, 1303, the Castle seems to have been getting into decay, for he then took up his abode with John Despanyding, a canon of the Cathedral. King Robert the Bruce in 1314 appointed Randolph, Earl of Moray, hereditary constable of the Castle of Elgin, to whose representative the Ladyhill still pertains. The Castle occupied a space extending about 240 feet in length, and 150 feet in breadth, and was inclosed by a wall, the remains of which still exist on the south side. The principal gate appears to have stood on the west side of the hill, where the ascent is comparatively easy ; and allusion is also made to the East Port of the Castlehill. The keep or square tower —the remains of which are still seen—was built of rough, unhewn stones, cemented or grouted with run lime. There was also apparently a round tower on the site of the large circular hollow which exists in the immediate vicinity of the ruin. The well of the Castle, which tradition has long assigned to this spot, was probably situated within this tower, and a windlass used for drawing up the water from the bottom of the shaft. Isabella, Countess of Moray, the widow of Earl Randolph, granted certain lands for the endowment of a chaplaincy at Elgin, in the year 1351, one of which was the chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary, in the Castle, from which the locality appears to have derived its present name. There is a tradition that the “pest” appeared like a ball of blue flame and darted into the Castle, and that the inhabitants gathered and covered over the Castle with earth and consigned the inmates to a living grave :—

“ The Castle in a single night
With all its inmates sunk quite out of sight ;
Then at the midnight hour is heard the sound
Of various voices talking underground,
The rock of cradles, wailing infants cries,
And nurses singing soothing lullabies.”

On the top of the hill, near the ruins of the Castle a Tuscan column, eighty feet high, was erected in 1839 to the memory of the last Duke of Gordon, the funds for which were raised by subscription within the county. A wheeling stair leads to the top, from which the most extensive panoramic view of the east part of the county is to be obtained, extending from Covesea to Cullen, and also the shores of the Caithness coast. In 1855 a statue of the Duke was placed on the top of the column—the late Alexander Craig, Esq. of Craigton, having bequeathed a handsome sum for this purpose, which was further augmented principally by members of the Morayshire Farmer Club. The statue, which is twelve feet high, is from the chisel of Mr T. Goodwillie, Elgin. His Grace wears his robes as Chancellor of Aberdeen University, holding a scroll in his hand, and the features and drapery are admirably brought out by the sculptor. The monument is enclosed by a railing, with the entrance on the south side. The keys are kept at the Police Office, and may be had by any respectable party on presenting their card.

In 1858 the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association conducted excavations on the top of the hill, when the remains of three human bodies were discovered a little north of the Gordon Monument. The bones were pretty complete, although all detached from each other.

One of the bodies was in a sitting posture, the others in a horizontal position, and placed just outside the outer wall of the Castle. A flint arrow head, several pieces of pottery, a copper coin of the time of Charles II., a quern, and several detached bones were also found. The Russian gun placed near the ruins, was one of those taken at Sebastopol, and presented by the War Office to the town of Elgin. It was placed in its present site in 1858.

BLACKFRIARS HAUGH.

At the foot of the hill to the north is Blackfriars Haugh, belonging to William Grigor, Esq., who built the commodious, substantial, and elegantly finished mansion on the banks of the Lossie. The grounds of this delightful property have been vastly improved. The banks by the river's edge along its whole extent have been sloped and covered with sward; and the parterre and walks in front of the house are laid out in the best taste, and produce a fine effect, particularly when viewed from the top of the Ladyhill. The trees, shrubs, and flowers in the grounds are of the best description, and there is one of the finest specimens of the weeping elm in the kingdom. East from The Haugh in former ages there stood a monastery of Blackfriars, erected in the thirteenth century, but all traces of the buildings have long been swept away.

Between the Market Green and the Lossie is the house of *Lossie Bank*, the property of Robert Young, Esq. It forms a very pleasant residence, although the high walls and trees by which it is surrounded, give it rather a secluded aspect. On the south side of the

hill is *Ladyhill House*, the property of Mrs T. MacKenzie. The entrance, facing westward, is a beautiful specimen of Norman Gothic architecture, beside which is a small conservatory, and on the sloping ground in front is the garden.

Returning to the High Street. On the south side of the road leading to Bilbohall and Main is the house of *West Park*, the property of the Hon. Lewis A. Grant, who changed the entrance to the grounds and greatly improved the house. Professor Innes, of Edinburgh, informs us that his father and grandfather resided here; and if the “nectarines and apricoks which grew there then, were better than any that grew elsewhere,” it must be consolatory to know that its glory has not departed, either in the production of fruit or flowers. It was here where the West Port of the burgh stood, and whose portals were betimes embellished with the leg or an arm of a condemned felon. The last criminal so treated, “according to the tenor of the sentence and form and custom of the nation,” was Andrew M’Pherson, a deserter, for the murder, in 1713, of John Gatherer, farmer at Netherbyre, Pluscarden.

The High Street proper commences at this point, and the south side for a considerable distance is bordered by the high walls of the West Park and Northfield House gardens. On the north side are several well built and commodious self-contained houses, with gardens behind them, on the steep sandy slopes of Ladyhill. Several remnants of the past still linger in this quarter, in the shape of closes of thatched houses with gable-ends to the street—prominent among which are the houses under the management of the

Town Council for behoof of the incumbents of the Auchry or Pittulie Mortification. The first outlet from High Street on the north side is *Murdock's Wynd*, leading to North Back Street, the Borough Brig Lands, The Haugh, and Ladies Walk. Next to Murdoch's Wynd, in a recess off the street, is a quaint old house which at one time belonged to the Dunbars of Hillhead, then to James Stephen, Provost of Elgin, who married a daughter of Sir Harry Innes of Innes, latterly to a family of Duffus, who still possess it. Opposite this, on the south side, is a large land of houses recently built by Mr George Winchester. Adjoining Mr Winchester's property, and for a considerable distance eastward are several new shops—the small old windows and narrow doors giving place to those of more elegant proportions. On the north side, the large property which belonged to the late Mr Murdock was sold in 1866—the western portion to Mr Alex. Gallon, and the other portion to Alexander Mackenzie, Esq., agent for the Commercial Banking Company.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK.

The first building of note we come to is the Commercial Bank, on the north side of the street. The house was originally built by George Fenton, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of Elginshire, who sold it to General Anderson, the founder of Anderson's Institution. The General frequently resided here, and after his death it was conveyed by his trustees to the Commercial Bank of Scotland, who opened a branch in Elgin in 1826. In 1852 the whole front was taken down and renewed with polished freestone.

It is a highly ornamental building of the florid Italian style of architecture, and has a very imposing appearance. The entrance to the Bank is by a high doorway with massive iron gate—the bank offices being on the right, and the agent's house on the left, to which a very handsome drawing-room was recently added. Between the first and second storey windows—two on each side of the entrance—are female figures with floral wreaths representing the four seasons. The centre portion of the front elevation is three storeys high, decorated with pilasters, which rise to the top of the second storey, having finely sculptured composite capitals. The whole is crowned with elegant cornices, balustrades, and vases. At the east end of the building is a lofty archway, leading to the garden and court behind, and is surmounted by cornice and baluster uniform with the main building.

Between the Commercial Bank and the adjoining property on the east, is the Common Gutter—a name almost unknown to the rising generation—which in former times carried all the surface sewage of the western part of the town to an open ditch at the Borough Brigs. A little further east is the *City Arms Hotel*, occupied by Mr John Cameron, attached to which are extensive stabling. On the opposite side of the street is

THE CALEDONIAN BANK,

A handsome and substantial building of two lofty storeys, built of Newton freestone. Over the entrance is a balcony with ornamental railing, and the walls are carried up above the roof, in the form of a parapet. The bank offices are on the left

hand side of the entrance ; on the right are the agent's private offices ; with his residence on the second floor. Behind the building is a large garden, with stable and coach-house at South Street. On the site occupied by this Bank there formerly stood a fine old mansion, built on squat pillars and arches, long known as Elchies House. It was erected about 1670, by George Cumming, of Lochtervandich, Provost of Elgin, or by William Cumming of Auchry, his son ; from him it passed to William King of Newmill, who married Provost Cumming's daughter, and about the end of the last century it passed to Robert Grant of Elchies, who added a couple of handsome rooms, and is supposed to have given it the name of Elchies House. After being purchased by the Caledonian Banking Company, it was pulled down about the year 1845 to give place to the present handsome structure.*

* The old house of the Cummings of Auchry was a beautiful and picturesque specimen of the ancient architecture of Elgin, and it is much to be regretted that it was removed from the street. As some members of this family were great benefactors of the burgh in their day and generation, an account of them may be interesting to our readers. The family of Cumming of Lochtervandich is descended of the house of Altyre. The first of them, Duncan Cumming, was the second son of Sir Richard Cumming of Altyre, who lived in the reign of King David Bruce. He got from his father the lands of Lochtervandich, in Glenrinnes, and other lands in Strathavon and Auchindown. He died in the reign of Robert the Third. The seventh in descent from him was George Cumming, born about the year 1600, who succeeded to the family estate. He was a merchant and trader in Elgin, Provost of the burgh at intervals, for a period of thirty years, and a man of energy and ability. He was twice married—first, to Marjory Leslie, of the family of Kininvie ; and second, to Lucretia Gordon, daughter of James Gordon, residenter in Elgin. By his first marriage he had two sons—the eldest, William, afterwards Provost of Elgin ;

Adjoining the Caledonian Bank is the hostlery of the *White Horse*, immortalised by William Hay in singing the praises of Mrs Innes, that

“Jewel of a good guidwife, the pridē o’ Elgin toon.”

by his second marriage he had three daughters—the eldest, Margaret, married William King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin. George Cumming died in 1689. His tombstone, in front of St Mary’s Aisle, in the Elgin Cathedral, bears the following inscription :—

“Here lies George Cuming of Lochtervandich, sometime Provest of Elgin, who died the 20 of September, 1689, and his spous, Marjorie Leslie, who died in September, the yeir of God, 1656.”

His second wife, Lucretia Gordon, is buried in the Duke of Gordon’s tomb, and probably was connected with that family. The inscription is as follows :—

“Here lies the bodie of Lucretia Gordone, spous to George Cuming, some tyme Provest of Elgin, who died in September, 1668.”

He was succeeded by his eldest son, William Cumming, born in 1634, who was also a merchant and trader in Elgin, and Provost of the burgh. He sold his paternal estate of Lochtervandich, and purchased Auchry and Pittulie, in Buchan. He mortified part of the Leper Lands, and the Hospital Croft of Elgin, with a house in the burgh for the use of four decayed burgesses, and erected the church of the parish of Monquhitter at his own expense. He was thrice married. He died in 1707, in the 74th year of his age, and a monument, bearing the following inscription, was erected in the Church of Monquhitter to his memory, by his third wife, Christian Guthry, daughter of Sir Henry Guthry of King Edward :—

“Memoria viri optimi Gulielmi Cuming ab Auchry et Pittulie. Elgini quondam Consulis, qui ptocho-dochium quatuor inopum Mercatorum ibidem mortificavit, ac postea templum hoc impensis his condidit, ac 29 Octob., A.D., 1707, atat 74 pie obiit. Monumentum hoc posuit iuxor ejus dilectissima Christiana Guthry.”

“Observa integrum et aspice rectum, finem illius viri esse pacem. Ps. 37 and 37.”

“Vive memor lethi, fugit hora.”

There are numerous descendants of the Cummings still resident about Elgin, and other parts of the county; but the family is chiefly remembered for the charity endowed by them, and which now yields a revenue of nearly £100 per annum.

Beyond the White Horse, still on the south side, comes *Batchen Lane*, in which is situated the remains of

THUNDERTON HOUSE.

In Captain Dunbar Dunbar's "Social Life in Former Days," page 282, we have the following account of this interesting fabric :—" It was, we believe, originally known as the ' King's House.' In 1601 it belonged to the three daughters of the deceased James Dunbar of Westfield (as heirs of their father, and of their great grandfather, Sir Alexander Dunbar, Sheriff of Moray), and was designated ' The Sheriff's House.' We are unable to say when the Earl of Moray became possessor of the house, but he sold it in 1653 to Lord Duffus, who bound the Earl, however, to defend him against all claims from the heirs of John Dunbar of Westfield. About fifty years thereafter it became the property of Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, and after nearly a century it was sold in 1800 by Sir Archibald Dunbar to John Batchen, who took down the greater part of the house and feued out the grounds." At the back entrance were two stone savages now in Pluscarden Priory. Prince Charles Stewart slept several nights at Thunderton House, then occupied by "Lady Arradoul," eldest daughter of Dunbar of Thunderton, and that lady was, in compliance with her dying request, buried in the sheets that had been used by her Prince. This visit of the Prince to Elgin took place in the spring of 1746, a few weeks before the battle of Culloden, so fatal to his cause. It has since been a Haldanite church, a furniture wareroom, a preaching station, a printing office ; and is now transformed into a dwelling-house, a ma-

sonic lodge, and an aerated water manufactory. The destruction of this fine old mansion, formerly so conspicuous an object in the town, was a great error, and none regret it more than the excellent family to whom it so long pertained. Previous to its sale it was for some years occupied by Alexander Brodie, Esq. of Arnhall, father of the late much esteemed Elizabeth, Duchess of Gordon, and here her Grace was born in the latter years of last century. Mr Brodie lived in good style, and his hospitality was long remembered in the town. The old Independent Chapel and the Temperance Hall, in its immediate vicinity, are now occupied—the former as a spirit store, and the latter as a porter and ale warehouse !

Parallel to Batchen Lane is *Batchen Street*, the principal places in which are Macnaughton's Commercial Hotel, the "Courier" Office, and Mr Harrison's Coach Works. Nearly opposite Batchen Street, at the west corner of North Street, is

THE ROYAL BANK,

Erected in 1856 on the site of a large house, which for several years was occupied by Mr David Macbean, druggist. It is a beautiful building of three storeys, in the Italian style of architecture and has a frontage both to High Street and North Street. The entrance to the Bank is at the corner, between two handsome pillars surmounted by capitals and cornice. The windows are ornamented with arched tops, and the whole surmounted by a massive cornice. The double frontage renders the two upper storeys a very cheerful residence for the bank agent.



HIGH STREET, LOOKING WEST.

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

On the east corner of North Street are the Assembly Rooms, the property of the Trinity Lodge of Masons, where the brethren meet annually to celebrate St Andrew's day, and where the principal balls and public entertainments are held. On its site there formerly stood Calder House, a stately old mansion, with turrets to the street, the property of successive generations of the Calders, Baronets of Muirton, merchants and traders and provosts of the burgh.* When in pos-

* Previous to the union with England, many of the Morayshire proprietors engaged in trade. The Calders of Muirton and Kings of Newmill carried on a large foreign trade with Holland, and other parts abroad, exporting corn, malt, salmon, &c., and importing wines, spirits, silks, and other commodities.

session of the Calder's, the garden extended down to where Trinity Chapel now stands. It afterwards became the property of Laurence Sutherland of Greenhall; and in the latter part of last century it was occupied by the famous Dr Dougall.

“ An’ wailin’ ghosts were heard
In Dr Dougall’s house, Sir.”

The present handsome building was erected in 1821, at a cost of £3000, one-third of which was raised by public subscription, the balance being supplied by the Trinity Lodge of Freemasons. The ball-room, on the second floor, is 59 feet long, 27 feet wide, and 21 feet high. At one end is a spacious supper-room, communicating with the ball-room by large folding doors, and when opened up forms a promenade 105 feet in length. On the opposite end is a raised orchestra; and several ante-rooms communicate both with the hall and supper-room. A few years ago the whole interior was repaired and decorated in a highly artistic manner. The walls are ornamented by large full-length portraits of the last Duke of Gordon, of the late Isaac Forsyth, Esq., and of Provost Grant. On the ground floor is the billiard-room, The Club reading-room, the kitchen, &c., while the front corner is occupied by the Elgin Circulating Library.

North Street here branches off at a right angle from the High Street, and is the principal thoroughfare leading to Bishopmill and the parishes of New-Spynie, Duffus, and Drainie. It is a fine open street, with a number of elegant dwelling-houses, and seems to be in great repute with the learned professions—being the place of busi-

ness or residence of several solicitors, doctors, &c. At the foot of the street is *Trinity Chapel*, a neat compact Gothic edifice in the form of a Greek cross. The entrance is by a doorway in a slightly projecting porch in the south arm of the cross, and on each side is an octagonal pier rising above the roof, with a finial on the top. In the centre above the porch is a large window; in the gable—which is finished with a cusped coping—is a small rose window. The “apse,” at the east end, where the altar is placed, was added some years ago, and has cusped windows filled in with stained glass, a parapet pierced with quaterfoil openings and gurgoyles. In connection with the Chapel is a commodious Industrial School, and on the west side of the Chapel is The Parsonage, the beautiful residence of the officiating clergyman.

The *Water Fountain*, which occupies an oval space in the centre of the High Street, enclosed by a dwarf wall and railing of an elliptical form, was erected in 1846. It is of Grecian design, and consists of four separate parts, forming a pyramidal group, commencing with a basin 26 feet in diameter, and three feet from the ground. In the centre of this, a pedestal supports a colossal vase of 12 feet diameter, fluted all round in chaste and beautiful design. In this is placed an ornamented tazza vase, eight feet in diameter by five feet high, from the centre of which springs a stone column, ornamented with lotus leaves and water lilies, from which the water is thrown to a great height, and then trickles down from one vase to another till it reaches the lower basin, from which the water passes to the street sewers. The site of this

beautiful ornament was for several centuries occupied by the town jail. The first one of which we have any account must have been of very primitive construction, for about 1600 we find an entry in the town's records, “Item, £3 6s 8d for fog to theck the Tolbooth.” This structure was replaced about 1605 by another tolbooth, which is recorded to have been “biggit wt stanes frae ye kirkyard dyke, and sclaited wt stanes frae Dolass.” It again gave place, in 1719, to a peculiar looking building, which contained the Court-House, Council Room, and various prison rooms of the most wretched description. It had a massive square tower, flanked by a round turret, and surmounted by a clock and bell spire with weather-cock. The building was removed about thirty years ago, and the bell, which had so often tolled in the old steeple, lay unnoticed in a coal cellar till last year, when it was placed between the Burgh and the County Buildings ; and Chanticleer, who had faced many a bitter blast, was mounted on the gable of a private residence, from which it was subsequently removed. The works of the clock, when taken from the tower, were deposited in the Museum.

In close proximity to the Water Fountain, at the west end of the Plainstones, is a neat cast-iron *Drinking Fountain*, surmounted with an ornamental lamp —the whole standing about twenty feet high. It was erected in 1860 from funds raised by a few of the master tradesmen in the town. Where the Plainstones now are, and for a considerable space all around the church, was formerly used as a burying-ground, in the centre of which stood the old Church of St Giles.

THE OLD CHURCH OF ST GILES,

Dedicated to the patron saint of the burgh, one of the early missionaries of Iona, is supposed to have been the first—the earliest built in the town. The centre tower no doubt was erected in the twelfth century, long before the Cathedral was founded. It was originally built in the form of a Greek cross, with nave, transepts, &c. The transepts, or as they were called, the north and south aisles, were one after another removed, about 150 years ago, to widen the street. The eastern limb of the cross called the “Little Kirk,” was taken down about the year 1800, having become entirely ruinous, leaving only what had been the nave of the older fabric, with the two-falls on each side and the old square tower on the east standing. The body of St Giles's Church had been frequently built and repaired. In 1540-60 it was furnished suitably to the Catholic service, with altars belonging to the different incorporated trades, who maintained a chaplain to minister at the shrine, probably of some patron saint of the particular craft. At the Reformation these altars were abolished, and lofts for the various incorporations, in all probability above the sites of the altars, were erected. In 1679 the Church, the stone roof of which had fallen in, was completely renewed, and seated after the Presbyterian fashion. It was lighted by a large Norman window at the west; the chief entrance being a large Gothic gate immediately under it. Along the sides were the original massive stone pillars, from the top of which sprang lofty pointed Gothic arches, on

which the roof was supported. In a line with these pillars, and built partly on them, were the lofts—some of which belonged to the larger heritors of the parish, and others to the trades. Each trade had its own loft, the front of which was beautifully carved, and bore the shield and motto of the respective crafts. The pulpit, which is still to be seen at the Priory of Pluscarden, was a piece of fine workmanship, with valuable carved enrichments—on the one side was the sand-glass holder to mark the time, and on the other the keeper for the baptismal basin—both pieces of curiously twisted iron work. Across the Church, from one side to the other, and near the top, were beams of wood, from the middle of which were suspended by strong iron chains, reaching to within a few feet of the pews in the middle area, brass chandeliers, with large globular centres, around which hung many graceful scroll branches, bearing candle-holders. On the white-washed walls were the coat of arms of the larger heritors, and several black boards setting forth the charitable deeds of the mortifiers of money to the poor, those pious men—

“ Who mortified their cash,
To mortify their heirs.”

Only a few of the present generation remember the old church of Elgin in its glory, when, on the evening of a sacramental Sabbath, the chandeliers were lighted up, and the church filled with innumerable candles (for every family carried their own candles to church,) it was a most curious sight, and made an impression, particularly on the young, never to be forgotten.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

The venerable old fabric of St Giles was taken down and the new Parish Church—one of the most spacious and elegant structures in the north of Scotland—erected on its site in 1828, at a cost of nearly £10,000. It is of the pure Grecian-Doric order of architecture, in the form of a Grecian Temple. The length over walls is 96 feet, and breadth $60\frac{1}{2}$, side walls 36, and height of ceiling 31 feet. At the west end is a spacious portico, formed with six handsome lofty Grecian-Doric fluted columns, supporting a massive entablature and pediment, ornamented with thirteen floral wreaths. At the east end is a large square tower, with clock and bells, terminating in a massive column, surrounded and adorned by six Corinthian pillars and entablature, surmounted by a richly sculptured dome or roof, and finial—the whole rising to a height of 112 feet, and being a copy of the Choragic monument of Lysicrates. The interior is richly decorated, and is calculated to contain more than two thousand worshippers. There are a considerable number of charities bequeathed by deceased sons and daughters of Elgin, under the management of the Kirk Session. This parish seems to have been made a collegiate charge about the year 1600, and is under the patronage of the Crown.

At the east end of the Parish Church, also in the centre of the street, stood *The Muckle Cross*. What its ancient form and structure were, we do not know. That which stood there last century was a hexagonal pillar of dressed ashlar, twelve feet high, and large

enough to contain a spiral stair. Around its base was a stone seat. From the top of the pillar rose a shaft of stone surmounted by the Scotch Lion rampant and the initials (C.R.) of King Charles II. Its site is now marked by a large cross of raised causeway stones. The old Scottish Lion stood for many years, after the cross was removed, in the old wall of South College garden, and is now in the possession of the Hon. George Skene Duff.

THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANK.

Turning to the north side of the High Street again, adjoining the Assembly Rooms, is the North of Scotland Bank, a handsome Doric building, erected in 1857. It has a bold rusticated base rising to the height of the first floor, at one end of which is the entrance to the Bank, in the form of a circular-headed doorpiece, with carved key blocks and entablature with mutules; and a window treated in a similar manner at the other end to correspond. The windows of first floor have pilasters, with sculptured capitals representing fruit and flowers, and arched pediments. A belt of fretwork separates this floor from the upper one, the windows of which have architraves. The cornice is supported on mutules or blocks, and has a parapet over. The entrance to the house is by an arched gateway at the east, with pilasters and carved key block, and a balustrade on the top. On this property there formerly stood Drummuir House—afterwards called the Trades Hall—a large edifice on low pillars and arcades, after the approved Elgin manner. It came through Dunbars, Kings, Sir

Archibald Campbell of Clunes—a man well known at Cawdor—to Robert Duff of Drummuir, who married Sir Archibald's daughter, Isabella. It was sold about the year 1805 by the late John Duff of Drummuir to the Trades of Elgin, who converted it into a hall, in which most of the public entertainments of the time took place. It was sold in the year 1848 by the trades to the North of Scotland Banking Company.

The next property, which is the best specimen of the old houses now left us, was built about 1619, and belonged for about a century to a family of the name of Donaldson. It then passed through the hands of Kenneth Mackenzie, surgeon-apothecary, a well-known man in his day, and some Dunbars and Duffs, and now belongs to Miss Ritchie.

THE MARKET BUILDINGS.

The handsome block of masonry, with arched doorways and windows in the form of a colonnade, on the south side of the High Street, opposite the Water Fountain, is Delmany Place, the property of D. M'Bean, Esq., erected in 1848 ; uniform with which, on the west side of the arcade, being a continuation of the same front, is the New Market, built in 1851 by a joint-stock company with a capital of £2200. Above the arcade and large handsome shop on the west, is a theatre or concert hall, of moderate dimensions. Figures of Tragedy and Comedy adorn the right and left of the stage ; between them are well painted heads of Shakespeare and Burns, Milton and Byron, and above the stage are drawings of the Elgin Marbles, casts of which have recently been presented to the Elgin Museum. On the

drop scene is painted a view of Elgin from the Ladies Walk at Braemorriston. Further back on the same floor is the commodious Corn Market Hall, now used as a drill hall and armoury by the Rifle Volunteers. Below this hall the building is fitted up with stalls, occupied by fleshers, green-grocers, &c. These stalls are formed by massive stone pillars, with strong arches which support the hall above. A broad flight of steps leads to the fish market, which is lighted from the roof, and has an entrance from South Street by a lofty archway with sculptured keystone. The whole property extends from the one street to the other, and is designed after the model of the Aberdeen markets.

The *Gordon Arms Hotel*, which is separated from Delmany Place by a narrow three-storey house, is a commodious four-storey building, with two handsome shops on the ground floor in front. It is the property of Mr Lowe, Australia, and occupied by Mr Mearns Bruce. In the stage coach days, this inn was a place of considerable importance ; but since the introduction of railways, it has assumed more the appearance of a good commercial hotel. Besides every accommodation for families and commercial gentlemen, there is an extensive posting establishment attached. Adjoining the Gordon Arms Hotel is the excellent property recently acquired by Mr Young, chemist, and extending back to South Street.

THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK.

The next building we come to is an elegant old mansion, the property and residence of Thomas Miln,

Esq., which, with its lofty arched gable, is the highest house in Elgin. The entrance to the dwelling house and beautiful garden is by a gateway in the centre, on either side of which are the offices of the City of Glasgow Bank, and the ironmongery premises of Messrs Watson and Law. Then follow in rapid succession several fine properties, extending from street to street—the Plough Inn, the Star Inn and Courant Office, the Fife Arms Inn, and the properties of Mr Hay of Edintore, Mrs Grant, and Mr Hay of Bon-Accord Villa.

THE UNION BANK.

The Union Bank Buildings stand on the site of a property long in possession of Bailie John Forsyth, from whose heirs the Bank Directors purchased it in 1857 and erected the present elegant structure in the Italian style of architecture, with a front of 40 feet, and height to the top of balustrade 43 feet. On the ground floor, the windows and passage are divided by rustic piers, having semicircular heads, with archivolt moulding and key-blocks. On the next floor, and separated from the one below by a moulded base, are two windows formed in double divisions with pilasters and arched tops, inside of which each division has a carved shell; above is an ornamental belt of scallop design. The upper floor windows have an architrave and scroll ornament at the base, the lintel slightly arched, with key-blocks, on which the lower members of the cornice rest. The three floors terminate at the sides in rustic quoins. Surmounting the whole is a massive cornice supported on moulded blocks and

finished with a balustrade on top. The Union Bank, formerly the Aberdeen Bank, is the oldest existing branch in Elgin, having transacted business here as early as 1780 or 1781.

THE BRITISH LINEN COMPANY'S BANK.

At the east corner of the Parish Church, on the north side of the Street, is the British Linen Company's Bank—a large handsome building of polished freestone. A spacious vestibule leads to the Bank offices, the agent's residence, and a highly cultivated garden on the north side of it. This bank was established in Elgin about the year 1807—the second in order of time opened in the burgh.

Next to the British Linen Company's Bank is the residence of Dr Mackay, which formerly pertained to Isaac Forsyth, Esq., an eminent leading man in the town in his day. Attached to this property is a house with a round tower and turret stair, marked repeatedly with the date 1634, and the arms of the Leslies of Rothes. On the top of this round tower there stood, till a few years ago, the iron cross which marked the houses held by the knights of St John. The old titles are lost, and it is impossible to tell who built it ; but it was possessed in the middle of the seventeenth century by Andrew Leslie of the Glen of Rothes, thereafter by James Stewart of Castlehill, one of the Magistrates of Elgin. In 1744 it was bought by Alexander Forsyth, merchant in Elgin. He was succeeded by his son, John Forsyth, agent for the Bank of Scotland in Elgin, and after his death it was acquired by his brother, the late Mr Isaac Forsyth, who had a bookselling shop

here, and established a circulating library in 1789—the first in the north of Scotland—and continued to reside in this quaint old mansion till his death in 1859. His representatives sold it in 1864 to the present proprietor. Attached to this property is a fine productive garden, with a hoary old pear tree of immense size and great fecundity. Billings, in his Ecclesiastical and Baronial Antiquities, gives a spirited sketch of this and the adjoining property, which was built in the old Elgin piazza style; but the latter has given place to the handsome structure erected by Mr John Anderson in 1854. That fine old fabric—which belonged successively to Cramonds, Mills, Captain Peter Innes, Charleses, Hay of Edintore, and lastly to Mr Anderson—had considerable pretension to ornament—its massive stone pillars and three fine arches and windows being embellished by mouldings. The gables of the dormor windows were enriched by scrolls, and surmounted by the thistle, the rose, and the star and crescent, with several initials and the date 1680. But for an unseemly projecting gable on the property next to Mr Kay's, at the office of the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, the side pavement from this point to Lossie Wynd would be from twelve to fifteen feet wide.

On the south side of the street, adjoining the Union Bank, is the elegant and substantial property built in 1858 by Mr John Duncan. Its site was formerly occupied by a characteristic old building, with “bow yett,” and a high Tudor gable similar to that on Mr Miln's house.

Commerce Street.—This street, running north and

south, connecting High Street with South Street, was formerly called the School Wynd, the old Grammar School and Sang School having been erected at its south-east corner. At that time it was a narrow crooked street. The ground and buildings necessary for widening the street were acquired, and the improvements carried out between 1857-60, at a cost of upwards of £1000, which was raised by public subscription. The principal places in this street are the Post-Office, a Ladies' Boarding and Day School, the Moray Tweed Warehouse, and the Stag Hotel. On the west corner is a massive three-storey block erected in 1857 by the Messrs Hay. The tenement on this site was a very old structure, with fantastic little windows and narrow crow-stepped gables, the property of the heirs of Bailie Archibald Craig, an old burgh family. Commerce House occupies the east corner. This is an extensive and valuable property, embracing several spacious shops, the Mechanics' Library and Reading Room, and several dwelling-houses.

Opposite Commerce Street are the highly ornamental premises of Mr Sellar, ironmonger. Mr Sellar's street frontage is limited, but he has made good account of the space at his disposal. The front wareroom is lighted by two large windows and glass door ; that in the rear, fitted up with a spacious gallery, is lighted from the roof. Behind Mr Winchester's commodious property at one time stood the slaughter house, from which *Lossie Wynd* was formerly called the Shambles Wynd. This lane—which passes in a direct line to Bishopmill—is one of the most public thoroughfares in the town, and if not the dirtiest, it is the narrowest

and worst paved within the burgh boundaries. At its northern extremity are two extensive Tanworks, one on either side of the street—that on the east side belonging to Mr Alexander Culbard, and that on the west to Captain Culbard. They are believed to be the most extensive works of their kind north of Dundee, and as public works in Elgin—either in regard to their extent, the value of the plant, or the number of hands employed—they stand next in point of importance to the Newmill Woollen Manufactory and Iron-works.

At the top of Lossie Wynd, on the east side, are the substantial buildings, consisting of dwelling-house and shops, belonging to Mr Alexander Sivewright. On this site there formerly stood a fine old house, with a bartizan, long possessed by the Donaldsons of Kinnairdie, and supposed to have been erected by James Donaldson, merchant in Elgin, in the end of the seventeenth century. His son, Thomas Donaldson of Kinnairdie, married Elizabeth, daughter of William Duff of Dipple, and sister of William, first Earl of Fife.

Between Lossie Wynd and North Street on the one hand, and Commerce Street and Batchen Street on the other, are the principal business premises and the largest and finest shops. From Lossie Wynd to the County Buildings the street is much narrower, imparting to the houses a somewhat sombre appearance. Opposite the house for many years occupied by the late Dr Stephen, is the fine property belonging to Dr Ross. It was erected in 1843 by Mr James Begg, whose trustees disposed of it in 1862 to the present proprietor.

THE COUNTY BUILDINGS.

The next object that attracts attention is the Burgh Court-House* and County Buildings. The former was erected in 1841, and the latter in 1866. Both are in the Italian style of architecture, and being connected by a short corridor, where the belfry is placed, they form one of the most elegant and extensive structures in the city. The rusticated ashlar work of the lower part of the new building is in perfect harmony with the upper part, from which it is divided by a moulded plinth and dado. The centre of the upper storey projects about two feet, and along the face of this central portion are ranged eight Ionic columns, with gracefully finished capitals and frieze and cornice work. The columns are surmounted by ten highly ornamental vases. The main entrance is reached by a broad flight of steps, and immediately within is a spacious vestibule, from which the inner lobby is gained. This lobby traverses the building from east to west, and is sixty feet long, nine feet wide, and twelve feet high. It terminates on the right hand in an entrance to the old Court-house, and on the left it leads to the main staircase. The Court Room has all the spaciousness and imposing

* The site of the Burgh Court-House was formerly occupied by a fine old mansion, the residence for generations of the Andersons of Linkwood. James Anderson of Linkwood, Provost of Elgin, born 1680 and died in 1731, lived here. It was also occupied by his sons, William Anderson of Linkwood, Provost of Elgin, who died in 1745; and Robert Anderson of Linkwood, who died in 1777. It continued in possession of the Anderson family until about the year 1807, when it was sold to the Misses Brodie of Spynie, who left it to their niece, Elizabeth Duchess of Gordon. Her Grace sold it to the Commissioners for erecting the County Buildings in Elgin.

grandeur befitting a hall of justice. It measures forty by thirty feet, and twenty feet from the floor to the ceiling. The bench, which extends across nearly the whole width of the room, is covered with fine crimson cloth, and accommodation has been provided for the bar in front at a large table, fashioned like a half moon. Accommodation is also provided for the Town Council meetings, and offices for the Procurator-Fiscal, the County Clerk, the Town Clerk, and the Sheriff Clerk.

Opposite the Court-House is Courant Court, a fine range of buildings erected by Provost Russell in 1841, for a dwelling house and printing office, on the site of Lady High House.* A short distance eastward is an excellent property belonging to Mr Christie, photographer, London. The portion fronting High Street, consisting of shops and dwelling-houses, was recently rebuilt, and the third storey windows embellished by ornamented gables. Adjacent to this property is the Mason Lodge, at one time in the possession of the Kilmolymock Lodge of Freemasons, when its then spacious ball-room has doubtless witnessed many a happy gathering.

In a recess from the street stands a handsome house of three storeys, the property and residence of Alexander Cameron, Esq., solicitor. It has two bow

* There is a story told in connection with Lady High House, but for its truth we cannot vouch, that while the masons were engaged in pulling down the ruins, there poured out a perfect gush of gold coins, which one of them caught in his leather apron, and rushed from the spot and the town, and was not heard of for several years afterwards, when he returned a wealthy man."

windows in front, surmounted by balusters, and a neat little conservatory at the east corner. Next this property is an old house, originally built on arcades, and which was at one time occupied as a place of business by William Duff of Dipple, father of William, First Earl of Fife. It had two dormor windows on the third storey, with the initials I.D., M.I., and date 1694.*

THE MUSEUM.

The Museum is the property of the Elgin Literary and Scientific Association, and apart from the interest attached to the local specimens of the old red sand-stone formation and the reptilian remains, which have acquired so wide a celebrity in the scientific world, the collection, both in extent and value, is one of the best to be found in any provincial town in Scotland. The building is a fine Grecian structure with polished free-stone front. Near the entrance stands an elaborately carved niche of a Mahometan Mosque from the ancient city of Ghoor. A spacious lobby with a lofty groined roof supported by a centre column, is adorned with an ancient coracle, instruments of war and peaceful commerce, and a number of other curious relics. On the

* The late Mr William Young used to report the tradition that, while carrying on business here, Dipple bought the estate of Coxton at what people ignorantly thought a very high price—so high that the Knight of Coxton celebrated the event by an entertainment which was not temperate, and very noisy. Dipple, in the evening, as he was shutting up his office, heard the noise of the riotous feast, and asked the cause. They told him it was Coxton rejoicing with his friends at the price he had got for his land. “Poor fellow!” said Dipple, “he is as well pleased at parting with his inheritance as I am at getting it.”

left is a room set apart for the meetings of the Society, and for transacting the business of the Savings Bank, in which hangs a portrait of the late lamented Morayshire poet laureate, Mr William Hay of Edinburgh.*

* William Hay was born in Elgin about the year 1794, in a tenement in the White Horse Close. He was, to use a quotation of his own, a *terreæ filius*—a plant of nature's own growth. His father he never saw or knew. Under his mother's care, he passed his infant and boyish years, sharing such treatment as her precarious means—the retail of small wares from a stall on the street—and perhaps somewhat improvident mode of life, afforded. Through the representation of kind friends, young Hay was enrolled as a pupil under Mr John Anderson, then classical master of the Elgin Academy, who undertook the cultivation of his intellect free of charge ; and never did protege more happily fulfil the predictions of his friends, or pupil reward teacher with more lasting or overflowing gratitude. In school, he was sober, subdued, and hard-working ; out-of-doors, under the soubriquet of *Cornal* Hay, he was the merriest of his companions—his jests, his drollery, his songs, or the shrill, piercing whistle between two of his fingers, being sure to be heard in the playground. In 1814 or 1815, he became tutor to the Cummings of Logie, where he enjoyed the friendship and subduing genial influence and advice of Mrs Cumming—Burns' “Bonny Lesley.” Being afflicted with a painful disease of the eyes, he was sent to Dr Gordon of Edinburgh in 1817 for medical treatment, and returned in a few months cured of his malady ; but the taste he had had of the bustle, animation, and excitement of metropolitan life, induced him in 1819 to abandon his comfortable occupation on the banks of the Findhorn, and establish himself as a “flying tutor” in Edinburgh. He attended the Moral Philosophy classes in the University, under Professor Wilson ; and then entered the Divinity Hall, but was never hearty in his divinity studies, and after delivering his “first and last sermon” in the Hall, he gave up his old idea of the church. In 1828 he became a member of the Edinburgh Morayshire Society ; and, as poet-laureate, entered most enthusiastically into its spirit, and for many years afterwards produced one or more songs on local subjects at its anniversary dinners. In learning, his chief excellence was as a classical scholar. He contributed several poems to “Blackwood's Magazine” from the

The hall is a large, well lighted apartment, the ground floor being divided into stalls by handsome square pillars arched at the top to support the roof. A gallery runs round the upper part of the building, except the north end, which is occupied by a spacious staircase. On the right side of the entrance stands “The Spirit of all Good,” and a number of curiously sculptured stones from India, above which hangs a large oil painting, “The Dutch Kitchen.” On the left side stands a Bhudist Image, with sculptured stones and picture—“The Musical Family”—uniform with those on the opposite side. A table facing the door bears a collection of fossils from Durness and Walsall, two mummy hands from Egypt, an elaborately carved stone adze, an old steel-yard for weighing bullion, &c. The centre table is principally occupied with specimens of ornithology —prominent among which is a fine collection of birds

Greek Anthology, and Homer; and was on the most intimate terms of friendship with Christopher North, Mr Blackwood, and other literary magnates of the day. Latterly, he was subject to severe attacks of headache; and, as time passed on, his habits of study, exertion, and punctuality, gave place to listless lassitude, or fitful outbreaks of manner, totally at variance with any manifestations of his former days. A dark cloud began to settle over him. As the darkness increased, his agitation became more terrible, till at last the sad reality settled down upon his soul, that light was for ever gone, and that now there was nothing for him but to grope in perpetual darkness and solitude. For seven long years he continued thus, never leaving the house—never almost leaving his bed—paralysis of the lower extremities, for the last three years of his life, incapacitating him from any locomotion; till his once robust frame was worn to a skeleton, and his vigorous intellect showed symptoms of decay—till all that could make life endurable had gradually failed—and at last, on 22d July, 1854, he sunk into his final sleep.

from Illinois, embracing a large white owl, prairie hens, a duck, and several small birds of beautiful plumage. The glass cases on either side of this table contain collections of minerals, insects, and old copper coins. In the side stalls are miscellaneous collections of beasts and birds, fishes, &c. At the north end are more sculptured stones, a royal Bengal tiger, alligators' skins, the skin of a white Polar bear; skulls, bones, and vertebrae of animals; and serpents of every size and hue. The staircase is embellished with the head, foot, and tail of a hippopotamus, the head of a moose deer, antlers of an American stag, antelopes, &c. In the north-west window is a Peruvian mummy, supposed to have been antecedent to the reign of the Incas, or native sovereigns. Among a vast variety of objects of general interest fitted to adorn any metropolitan collection, the shelves and cases of the Elgin Museum contain an excellent illustration or epitome of the surrounding district that must well repay a visit from the antiquarian or naturalist. The central glass case that graces the provincial gallery, exhibits ptarmigan in all their shades of colour, from close deep grey to the purest white. In it are specimens of the wild cat, the ermine, the eagle (both golden and white-tail), the osprey and the kite. Alongside of these rapacious animals stand the Bohemian chitterer, the crossbill, the quail, the rare roller (killed at Ballindalloch), and the little bustard (killed at Westfield), &c., &c. Of the rarer fishes of the Moray Frith there are the weavers, Norway haddock, dory, *regalecus glesne*, lamprey, sturgeon, &c., &c. The case of local shells holds about three hundred species, some of them rare and minute.

The native crustacea (crabs, &c.,) and echinodermata (star-fish, &c.,) are well represented. A separate cabinet contains in its well filled drawers coleoptera, lepidoptera and some other entomological tribes collected in Moray. Many fossils illustrate the geology of the province and the north of Scotland, such as piloseras and others from the silurian rocks of Durness ; pterichthys, coccosteus and other fish from the nodular beds of the Old Red Sandstone ; glyptopomus and holoptychius from the upper yellow strata of the same formation. This museum is of course rich in reptilian remains of the Elginshire sandstones, singularly interesting to the geologist, to whatever age these notable relics may belong. Throughout the Museum there are to be seen slabs with well marked footprints of these animals, indicating sizes running from that of a rabbit to that of an ox. Liassic and oolitic mollusca are abundantly shown, chiefly taken from drift boulders. Across the front of the gallery, and deserving the inspection of the archeologist, there is a glass case full of provincial antiquities. Rudest flints of foreign growth, elfshots of the simplest and of the most artistic forms, stone celts and hammer heads made of native and of southern rocks, carved balls, whorls and patera represent the stone age. From the bronze age we have "the finest spear head that has been found in Scotland," several celts and pul-staves. Then come beads and rings of glass, and other ornaments made of jet from stone cists ; one of the golden armlets found at "The Law," near Urquhart ; vestiges of early manufacture of glass and smelting of iron ; brooches ; old keys ; and the

veritable jougs from the old kirk of Rothes. In an adjoining wall case there are ancient urns with calcined bones, skulls from stone cists, and cervical vertebræ of *bos primigenius*. There are other objects of interest in this gallery, viz., a finely executed model of the Spey Bridge at Fochabers ; a model of the ancient salt-works recently discovered at Loch Spynie ; part of a stone built over the doorway of the old Jail of Elgin, bearing a hand grasping a scroll with the motto “*Suum cuique tribue.*” Among the articles recently presented to the Museum are casts of the Elgin Marbles,* and casts in basso-relievo of frescoes in the Vatican by Raphael ; and the cape of a Llama priest’s robe, adorned with finely cut figures or images and other designs in ivory. It is richly embroidered with green and gold on a scarlet satin ground, and forms a striking contrast to the far more rude, but no less interesting, necklaces lately presented of the savage Andamanese. They are made of the coarsest cord, and adorned with the smaller bones and bits of the ribs of the departed friends of the wearers. The Museum is open every week day, and a very small charge is the admission fee for all who are not accompanied by a member of the society.

* In 1841, Lord Elgin brought home from the Parthenon of Athens a splendid collection of basso relieves and fragments of statuary, which were called the “Elgin Marbles.” They were at once seen to be among the first remains of ancient art, and might be, it was said, executed from designs by Phidias. The British Parliament bought the valuable relics for £35,000, and they were placed in the British Museum, where they are now to be seen.

THE LITTLE CROSS.

In the centre of High Street is the Little Cross, which marked the boundary between the town and the Cathedral grounds, and has stood for many centuries ; but having become somewhat dilapidated, has now been repaired and painted. The base consists of four steps in the form of a pyramid, from which rises a stone shaft fifteen feet in height, capped with sundial, the city arms, and a St Giles' cross. A tradition still exists that the Wolfe of Badenoch actually placed his bare knees on the spot where the Little Cross now stands, and begged for and obtained from the Bishop remission of the terrors of hell for himself and those concerned with him, in the atrocity of burning the Cathedral, paying a sum also in compensation, with part of which that cross and the Borough Bridge, near Elgin, was erected.

The High Street is here terminated by an elegant four-storey house, facing westward. The entrance is at the north end by a handsome doorway, with semi-circular top and carved shell. On the second storey in front is a spacious balcony, supported on cantilevers, which extends from end to end of the building. At this point *Greyfriars Lane* branches off to the south, on the west side of which stands Dunfermline Cottage,* built by George Fenton, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of Elginshire, and sold by him to the late William Innes,

* On the site of Dunfermline Cottage there stood in former ages a Monastery of Greyfriars, erected in the thirteenth century, the vaults and foundations of which were in existence until about forty years ago.

Esq., who gave it the name by which it is now known. It was enlarged and improved by Alexander Cooper, Esq., the present proprietor and occupant. *South College Street*, which is the principal continuation of High Street, leads eastward to the Fochabers and Keith turnpike. *North College Street* branches off on the left hand towards the Cathedral, Newmill, &c.

King Street runs north and south between the Cathedral and South College Street. There are several fine houses here, with tastefully kept gardens—that on the north-west corner, occupied by John Kerr, Esq., Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, was built by Peter Brown, Esq., Linkwood, on the site of Unthank Manse. On the opposite corner is the fine residence of John Allan, Esq., where formerly stood Duffus Manse, a picturesque old building, where King James II. resided with his kinsman David Stuart, then parson of Duffus, but who, when subsequently created a bishop, took up his abode at Spynie, and built the principal part of the old Palace now standing, and which bears his name as “Davie's Tower.”

GRANT LODGE.

The entrance gate to Grant Lodge stands at the junction of North College Street and King Street, on the south-east corner of the grounds, through which the approach winds gracefully, terminating in an oval space in front of the house, which is a large handsome building of three storeys, with two conservatories, one on each end. The principal entrance is reached through a handsome *porte-cochere* supported on four massive pillars. The basement floor is entirely oc-

cupied with the servants' accommodation. The first floor contains a large dining-room on the right, and a morning room on the left, while the western wing contains the boudoir. On the second floor are the drawing-room and best bed-room, and a large suite of apartments. The grand staircase contains some fine valuable paintings by eminent masters, and several marble busts. Grant Lodge is the jointure residence of Louisa Countess of Seafield, and stands on the site formerly occupied by the Marquis of Huntly's Elgin residence.* The gardens, grounds, and parks

* We cannot omit giving here a brief account of the visit paid by the Strathspey Highlanders to Grant Lodge in 1820 for the protection of the Ladies Grant and the Earl of Seafield, so graphically described by Robert Young, Esq., in the second series of Captain Dunbar's "*Social Life in Former Days.*" At the general election which followed the death of George III., the Elgin burghs were contested by General Duff, brother of the Earl of Fife, in the Fife interest, and Archibald Farquharson of Finzean, in the Kintore and Seafield interest. Political feeling then ran high in Elgin, and the burghers rallied under the respective Duff and Grant banners. At that time the election was vested in the Town Council, and the object of each party was to obtain a majority of councillors for their respective candidate. The Grant party attempted to kidnap two of Lord Fife's supporters in the Town Council. The Duffs, in retaliation, seized two of the Grant supporters, carried them post-haste to the sea-side, and transported them across the Frith to Sutherlandshire. In consequence of these transactions Elgin got into a most excited state, and on the morning of Sunday the 12th March, Lady Ann Grant despatched an express to Strathspey for a body of Highlanders to guard Grant Lodge. The express reached Cromdale as the congregation were leaving the Church, and about three hundred men immediately started for Elgin, expresses being sent for others to follow. The first band reached Aberlour at a late hour in the night, when a tenant of Lord Fife's despatched his son on horseback to alarm Lord Fife and the people of Elgin. All armed themselves with staves, bludgeons, rusty swords, and other weapons; and the magistrates and councillors favourable to the Fife

are of ample dimensions—embracing in them the original Grant Lodge grounds, the extensive parks and gardens of Dunkinty, and the old garden and grounds of the Bishops of Moray—and extend from the road leading to Bishopmill on the west to the North College grounds on the east, and to the banks of the Lossie on the north.

Many associations of the past still cling to the precincts of these fine policies. Part of the *Bishop's House* still remains to tell of its former greatness,

interest were first lodged in Mackenzie's Inn, at the corner of Batchen Street, and afterwards locked into the old Jail, carefully guarded by men, who were relieved at intervals.

The first band of Highlanders arrived about three o'clock in the morning ; and finding the inhabitants in a state of preparation, did not enter the town, but marched direct to Grant Lodge. The alarm in the town continued, and all the able-bodied men were kept ready for whatever might occur. In the course of the forenoon, Lord Fife's tenantry from the adjacent districts came into Elgin ; so that probably there were fifteen hundred men ready for battle. It was almost certain that, should the Highlanders remain till night and get drink, which was going freely in all quarters, a battle must ensue ; so the Sheriff and the parochial clergy waited on Lady Ann Grant, and urged on her the absolute necessity of ordering the Highlanders to decamp at once. Her Ladyship, after being assured that special constables would be sworn in to preserve the peace on both sides, consented ; the Highlanders were despatched home in the afternoon, and special constables patrolled the town. The Grant councillors not having returned from Sutherland, the Fife party met and nominated their delegate ; but this proceeding being illegal, after the parties had returned, the Council met, and by the casting vote of the Provost chose a delegate favourable to Mr Farquharson of Finzean, who thus acquired a majority in the five burghs of the district, and was elected member of Parliament. Four men were tried at the Circuit Court at Inverness for the abduction of the bailie and councillor ; but from some flaw in the indictment the prosecution broke down and the parties were liberated.

and the splendour of the hospitality which had there been dispensed. It was at one time known as Dunfermline House, but is now generally called the Bishop's Palace, and is an interesting relic of the ancient domestic architecture of Moray. The corbelled window in the east is a quaint pretty thing, and assimilates more to the Gothic than is generally the case in this style. The corbelled turret staircase in the north angle of the square tower is remarkable, and the mode of its termination is seldom to be met with ; the pedimented crow-steps, too, of this building are peculiar, and rarely to be seen,—in short, it is altogether a valuable specimen of the Scotch architecture.* *Dunkinty House*, built by David Stewart, Commissary of Moray, thereafter the town residence of the Inneses of Leuchars and Dunkinty, stood near the turn in the Dunkinty Road where the gardener's house now is, and had an entrance from the foot of Lossie Wynd, by way of the “Furlin' Yetts.”

* At what precise time the Bishop's House was built we do not exactly know ; it was probably about the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century. It bears the date 1557 and the initials of Patrick Hepburn, the last Popish Bishop of Moray, and armorial bearings, perhaps of some of the Bishops Stewart. At the Reformation, the Bishop's house and garden, with the lordship of Urquhart, were granted by the Crown to the Earl of Dunfermline, from whom they passed to the noble family of Gordon. The house and garden continued in possession of the Gordons till the death of Duke Alexander in 1827. By his trustees the place was sold to the late Mr William Innes, who erected the new enclosing wall. Mr Innes' heirs sold the premises to the late Earl of Seafield. In the Earl of Dunfermline's time, the house was enlarged, and made a place of occasional residence by that family. It was entire and occupied by respectable families until the middle of last century.

It was an old-fashioned three-storey house, without any great claim to architectural display. The “*Furlin' Yetts*,” too, have passed away. This was a narrow, dirty, tortuous pathway between two dykes, leading from the back of the Tanworks eastward to the Dunkinty Road, and probably derived its appellation from the turnstiles which stood in the pathway to prevent the ingress of cattle. In 1851 this public footway was exchanged with the late Earl of Seafield for the piece of ground lying contiguous to North Lodge, the Gasworks, and the banks of the Lossie.

ELGIN CATHEDRAL.

The Elgin Cathedral—the Church of the Holy Trinity—was founded in 1224 by Bishop Andrew Moray, on a beautiful spot on the side of the river Lossie, the ground being granted by King Alexander II. It is stated to have been completed in eighteen years after its commencement, under this Bishop's despatch, who seems to have been a character like Abbot Sampson in Carlyle's *Past and Present*. In the days of its pristine grandeur it was no less the glory of Elgin, than the boast of Moray and the pride of the north. Like all other cathedrals, it was built in the form of a Latin cross, placed due east and west. The shaft or body of the cross is termed the nave ; the areas beyond the pillars on either side are designated the aisles (and in Elgin Cathedral they were double) ; the arms are called the north and south transepts ; and the head of the cross contains the choir and chancel, in which is placed the altar. At the north side of the latter is situated the chapter-

house, supposed by some to represent the head of our Saviour as he hung on the cross. On this, commonly called the “Prentice Aisle,” the highest degree of ornamentation is generally bestowed. In the case of Elgin, it is evidently of a later date than those portions already referred to, and must have been built during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, as the mullioned windows and flowing tracery were never seen in the early English style. In extent, in loftiness, in impressive magnificence, and even in minute decoration, it must have been one of the most solemnly massive, and grand cathedrals in Scotland—a supposition borne out by Billings, who ranks it next, if not equal, in many points to that of Glasgow. In detail it must have been richer, as it does not partake so much of the peculiar clumsy features of our Scottish ecclesiastical Gothic in general. We may presume, that under Bishop Moray’s active and speedy direction, it was all of one style, late transitional—as the towers and a part of the south side near where the transept stood, testify. The choir seems to have been almost wholly rebuilt, being richer in detail than the rest. The length of the Cathedral over all is about 290 feet. In the screen wall, between the west or front towers, is the deeply recessed, rich, double-valved entrance gateway, having eight columns on each bevelled side; the arches are singularly beautiful in contour, and the carving around them and door jambs is very fine; between the valves above, and within the large arch-line, is a niche, supposed to have contained the figure of the Virgin, worshipped by a winged, kneeling angel on each side, amid foliage carved in relief. Above this gate-

way is the great Alpha window, which, from what remains, appears to have contained large circular tracery, to correspond with the great Omega window at the east end, but no tracery of which now remains. It is difficult to make out what may have been the arch-tracery, if any, or cusping in the lancet windows. In some points, as in other features of the Cathedral, this end resembles that of Ely. The Chapter House is octagonal, the roof being supported by a central pillar, and is entire, with the exception of the tracery of the windows. It shows some beautiful work throughout, especially in the carved capital of the centre pillar and the bosses on the rib points of the groined roof. Near it are the remains of the Vestry and the small Sacristy, containing a lavatory, the rim of which is beautifully carved with leaves. It formed the cradle (and no mean one either) of the baby of a poor demented mother, who took up her home in the ruins, and whose child became General Anderson, the founder of the noble institution bearing his name.

Of the five towers, two solemn massive ones remain in the west front, eighty-four feet high, ruined at their tops, from which a fine panorama is seen of the surrounding country. Two other towers, or turrets rather, are on the east, and served as stair-cases from the clerestory gallery or “geralds” running round and round the whole Cathedral. These, and the upper part of gable between them, are also ruined at the top. There are no remains, except the foundations, of the great central tower or spire, which is said to have been about 200 feet high. It fell in 1506, was then rebuilt, but fell again with a tremendous crash on Easter

Sunday of 1711. These cathedral remains, like many others, tell with a kind of silent yet dignified sorrow of its spoliation. When it had scarcely been built 166 years, it was burnt by the Wolfe of Badenoch, along with the Maison-Dieu Hospital. One can imagine the glorious Gothic pile with the fire raging within, illuminating its traceried windows, while the feebler burnings around heightened its effect with ruddy glare and dark shadows. The reigning Bishop soon brought the Wolfe to penance for his misdeeds ; and extorted restitution in large sums of gold and annual rents previous to giving him absolution. The Cathedral was commenced anew, but made slow advance in such troublous times. By a solemn rule of each succeeding bishop devoting a third of his income till completed, it was ultimately finished, only to be re-ruined by order of the Privy Council in 1568, “ appointing the lead to be taken from the cathedral churches in Elgyne and Aberdeen, sauld and disponit upon, for sustentation of the men of *weir*.” The story goes, that the ship bearing the plunder foundered at sea, in reprobation for the sacrilege. It was further destroyed by the Covenanters and by Cromwell’s soldiers, in the middle of the following century, and afterwards it fell gradually into decay. As usual in such a state of unprotection, it became a quarry for the inhabitants of the town to build dykes, barns, &c., and was used as such up to the beginning of the present century, being entirely unenclosed and uncared for ; so much so, that almost all between the front towers and east wall of the transepts, and many other parts beyond, have entirely disappeared. It is said, and to his honour be it re-

corded, that the first person who took any notice of the Cathedral was the late Joseph King of Newmill, Provost of Elgin from 1806 to 1809, who caused it to be enclosed with a stone wall. The late Mr Isaac Forsyth, who took a warm interest in all that pertained to Elgin, also got repeated grants from the Exchequer for repairs to the venerable building. At last the Crown claimed it in 1820, and has since kept it in order ; and the precincts, with the church-yard around, are well enclosed.

The visitor, in order to intelligently and carefully examine the ruins, should procure the services of the keeper, who will point out all the objects of interest connected with the Cathedral. The western entrance leads to the *Nave* (or shaft of the cross), which had aisles on either side, and extended to the transepts. The foundations of ten of the pillars which supported the roof, and a corresponding number of smaller dimensions for supporting the aisles, still remain. The principal objects of interest within the nave are the remains of a stone coffin, which is said to have for a time contained the corpse of King Duncan. Beside a number of broken and defaced effigies is the statue of Bishop John Innes, who began the building of the great centre tower. On the opposite side is the Runic Piller, believed to be the most ancient piece of sculpture in the county, and is probably not less than a thousand years old. It was found in the High Street in 1823, a little to the north-east of the old Church of St Giles, and is evidently incomplete. It has on one side a hunting party, with men, horses, and hawks ; on the reverse side is the Runic cross, the Runic knot, figures in the

attitude of supplication, &c. The *Transepts* (or arms of the cross), forming the extreme breadth of the building, are separated from the *Nave* by a partially intervening wall. In recesses in the south *Transept* are two knights in full armour—Walter Stewart, Duke of Albany, and Robert Innes of Invermarkie—both of whom are supposed to have died about the year 1481. This is the burial-place of the Inneses of Invermarkie, as shown by a shield in the wall bearing the family arms. The north *Transept* is the burial-place of the Dunbars of Grange, in which are two recumbent figures, one of them bearing the Randolph arms. From the *Transepts* the visitor will pass to the *Choir* and *Chancel* (or head of the cross.) The ground rises by three steps to where the high altar stood, lighted by ten lancet-pointed windows, and the richly traceried Omega above. The large blue stone in the *Chancel* marks the spot where the ashes of Bishop Andrew Moray, the founder of the Cathedral, repose. It was here where the famous screen was placed, separating the *Choir* from the *Chancel*; on the east side of it was painted the Day of Judgment, and on the west was the Crucifixion. On the south side is *St Mary's Aisle*, the burying-place of the Dukes of Gordon. The centre tomb in the east end of it contains the remains of the first Earl of Huntly. In a recess opposite is the statue of Bishop John Winchester, who died in 1458; within the arch above which are the only remains of the original painting in the building. The last Duchess of Gordon was interred here in January, 1864. Turning to the north side of the *Chancel*, and passing through a broken arch, the *Vestry* is reached, beyond which is the *Lava-*

tory, with the stone basin which contained the water for washing the priest's hands, and in later years was the cold, cheerless cradle of General Anderson. The entrance to the *Chapter House* is guarded by a large iron gate. The curious relics ranged round the Chapter House walls were dug from the ruins at different times by the keepers of the Cathedral, chiefly by John Shanks. That the finely cut Corinthian pillars and inscription tablets, recording the life and death of departed worth and genius, have no connection with the original structure is at once apparent from the position they occupy, the style of architecture, and the dates they bear. From the Chapter House you again pass through the Vestry to the grounds at the east end, where a few steps are placed, from which the ruins are seen from end to end through the windows at the high altar to the western towers. After visiting the Bishop's Cross on the south side, the monument erected to the memory of Bishop Douglas on the north, and the numerous interesting tombs with quaint inscriptions, the visitor may ascend to the top of one of the western towers, where a very pleasant view of the town and surrounding country is obtained. Westward lies the city, with the spires of the Established Church, the South Free and Moss Street U.P. Churches ; Gray's Hospital, the Gordon Monument and Braelossie, with Quarrywood and Heldon Hill in the distance. Northward from Bishopmill, is the Covesea Lighthouse and the Moray Frith, with the Caithness hills for a background.

When Bishop Andrew Moray translated the cathedral church of the diocese to Elgin, he increased the number of the canons to twenty-two, who constituted

the Chapter or Council, and performed divine service in the Cathedral, besides officiating at stated intervals in the canonrys or outlying parishes assigned to them. Five of these were designated the dignified clergy—the Dean (who in the Bishop's absence presided at Chapter), the Sub-Dean, the Chancellor, the Treasurer, and the Chantor. The manses and gardens of these canons constituted the *College*, or ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishop. The grounds of the College were enclosed by a strong stone wall, six feet thick, twenty feet high, and about nine hundred yards in circumference. Only a small portion of the wall remains. It had four gates, with portcullis, but all have disappeared except the East or Pansport Gate, which was often called the Bishop's Gate, as through it the Bishop passed—by the then circuitous road along the plain by way of Calcots, &c.,—to and from his Palace at Spynie.

NORTH COLLEGE.

North College was formerly the residence of the Dean, and known as the Deanery. The grounds are bounded on the south and west by the Dunkinty road leading between the Deanshaugh and Brewery Bridges, while the course of the Lossie forms that of the north and east, and include the manses of Botarie, Inverkeithny, the Treasurer's, Croy, the Chancellor's, and the Dean's. The lands of Deanshaugh, with the Dovecot, were of old attached to the Deanery; and the Lossie, which now separates them, seems to have run much to the north of its present channel. This residence seems to have had an attraction for Dunbars, as

during two hundred consecutive years it was possessed by a Dunbar either of Grange, of Barmuckity, of Thunderton, of Bishopmill, or of Burgie.* It was purchased about the year 1756 from John Dunbar of Burgie by James Robertson, Esq., grandfather of the present proprietor. In the extensive repairs and additions carried out some years ago, the original character of the building was retained. The mansion-house now presents a succession of sharp angles and crow-stepped gables, forming a commodious and elegant residence. Attached are several large parks of arable land, an excellant orchard, and garden. †

SOUTH COLLEGE.

South College is situated on the south side of the Cathedral, and was formerly the Sub-Dean's residence. After it ceased to be held by ecclesiastical proprietors, it passed through several lay hands, until it became

*. On the 18th of October, 1577, John Innes, brother of the Laird of Innermarkie, with several accomplices, broke into the stables of the Deanery of Moray, with the intention of carrying off the horses. The Dean, Alexander Dunbar, disturbed by the sudden confusion, came out unarmed, "except with his dirk, which he carried always," and was immediately attacked by one of the party, who not only wounded him severely, but also most cruelly killed his daughter, Elizabeth Dunbar, a girl of thirteen years of age. This horrible transaction was resented by all the Dunbars, but the Inneses defended their kinsmen, and as a great part of Moray then belonged to families of these two names, the consequences were most serious. At length the Earl of Sutherland and other influential persons induced the hostile parties to come to an agreement.—"Social Life in Former Days." Second Series.

† The orchard and garden are mentioned in a contract between Alexander Dunbar, Dean of Moray, and his gardeners, dated 7th November, 1566.

the property of the Hon. George Duff of Milton-Duff, son of William, first Earl of Fife, at whose death it descended to his son, Major George Duff, and was conveyed by him to his cousin, the Hon. George Skene Duff, brother of the present Earl of Fife, who in 1864 sold it to Archibald Inglis, Esq., late of Ceylon, who enlarged and ornamented the mansion-house, making it an elegant, commodious, and desirable residence. There are two projecting wings to the front, with staircase having a superb elongated window of stained glass. The centre figure represents Morning resting on clouds and strewing flowers. Mr Inglis also greatly improved the grounds and approaches, and built a neat porter-lodge at the south-west corner, opposite Anderson's Institution. South College and grounds form a compact and valuable property, extending from the Cathedral to the Fochabers road, and from Lazars Lane on the west to the Pansport road on the east. Little of the original building now remains; a portion of the College wall and the gnarled trunk of *The Old Beech Tree* are nearly all that is left of its old associations. The venerable old tree, though now a rapidly decaying trunk with a few bare branches, is endeared to the recollection of many Elgin "loons" by early boyhood reminiscences. In days of old it was quite famous as a trysting tree, and "many a blythe and bonnie lass has been wooed and won beneath its shade." It had a trunk of enormous thickness, and its boughs spread over an immense area.

The Pansport.—The Pansport, or Bishop's Gate, stands at the north-east corner of South College, and as

already stated, it and a small portion of wall are all that remain of the defensive works which surrounded the Cathedral grounds. The arch is supported on strong massive pillars of freestone of sufficient thickness to allow the portcullis to be let down in the centre. This interesting old relic of bygone times was fast going to decay, and would have soon been counted with the things that were, had not the Trustees of the Earl of Fife in 1857 put it into a thorough state of repair, as nearly as possible to the original design. As now repaired, the Pansport will stand for generations as a memorial of the ancient architecture of ecclesiastical fortification.

North of this, and east of the Cathedral, is *The Elgin Brewery*, an extensive range of premises, the property of Messrs A. & J. Young, established about eighty-three years ago by a joint-stock company, who afterwards disposed of it to the grandfather of the present proprietor, James Young, Esq., jun., who has gradually increased its proportions till it now forms one of the most extensive breweries in the north of Scotland.

The river Lossie is here crossed by a handsome stone bridge of two arches, erected in 1800, at the north-east corner of which stands *Kingsmills*, erected by Captain Stewart of Lesmurdie in 1836. They are conspicuous by a tall brick chimney, and were originally intended as a meal mill, to which a sawmill has recently been added, both being driven by steam power. These mills are now occupied by Mr William King, woodmerchant.

NEWMILL MANUFACTORY.

A few hundred yards further east, on the right, is Newmill Manufactory, which is the most important public work in the county, and affords employment for between one and two hundred hands, and consists of an extensive range of detached buildings for the different operations required in the manufacture of cloth, iron forging, and engineer works.* The principal building has a handsome bell tower with clock and transparent dial plate ; and from the engine house rises a tall brick chimney stalk. Not much more than half a century ago Newmill consisted of only a meal and carding mill, the property of Joseph King of Newmill. Alexander Johnston, Esq., who died in 1864, may be said to have been the founder of Newmill Manufactory. He had at one time a small linen spinning and weaving establishment in Elgin a little east of Lossie Wynd, after which he was tenant of mills

* The principal articles manufactured at Newmill are Scotch plaids, tweeds, kerseys, and double cloths, the one side of which is Vicugna wool and the other sheep's wool, both sides being different in colour and pattern. The Newmill kerseys are celebrated in the London markets, where they command a high price. The iron works were originally erected to make repairs on the plant connected with the woollen manufactory, but afterwards contracts were undertaken from other customers, and the works gradually increased till they now occupy the first place in the county, and supply steam engines, reaping machines, and all the other miscellaneous articles of regular engineering works. The machinery was formerly driven by water from the Lossie, but the increased works required stronger motive power, and a steam engine was added as an auxiliary to the water power, and so adjusted as to act conjointly or separately. A plentiful supply of gas is manufactured on the premises for lighting the workshops and dwelling-houses.

and bleachfield at Deanshaugh, but he subsequently gave them up and entered into a lease or tack with Joseph King, Esq. of Newmill, for the meal and carding mill there. Mr King undertook to erect suitable houses for Mr Johnston's work, and as trade increased the premises were gradually extended till a considerable time after Mr King's death, when Captain Stewart, his grandnephew and successor, in the year 1836, granted a charter of the lands and houses in favour of Mr Johnston and his heirs—the latter purchasing the houses and machinery, and paying a yearly feu-duty. Some time after acquiring the property, the iron works were commenced. House after house was erected, and machine after machine was introduced, until the whole now forms, as already stated, the most extensive and important public work in the county. The proprietor's residence stands close beside the factory. It seems to have been built about fifty years ago, but extensive additions and repairs were made on it in 1865.

At Newmill the road turns at a right angle to the north, and leads to *Lesmurdie Cottage*, which is beautifully situated on the top of a thickly-wooded knoll. It is the property of Captain James Stewart of Lesmurdie, and is a very neat cottage-built house of recent erection, with the principal front facing westwards, commanding a magnificent view of Elgin and the surrounding country. The estate of Newmill, on which this cottage stands, comprises several farms, and formerly belonged to the Kings of Newmill, an old and influential family in the burgh of Elgin.

The lands lying within the burgh boundary on the south side of the Lossie opposite Newmill, pertain to the

Earl of Seafield. When part of these lands were divided into crofts or glebes to the canons of the Cathedral in 1224, they were designated the Burgh Haugh. Two of these crofts, skirting the east side of the Pansport Road, are now called Rosebank Gardens.

LEPER LANDS.

The Leper Lands extend in a straight line from the Order Pot eastward to the Tyock, which forms the east and south boundaries. The boundary on the west ran from the Order Pot to a gate on the north and a recess on the south side of the Fochabers road, and thence in a straight line to the Tyock near the Ashgrove farm-steading. The Morayshire Railway intersects these lands, and that portion lying on the west side of the line is in a manner incorporated with the Maisondieu lands, lying contiguous, and also belonging to the town. The Leper lands extend to about eighteen imperial acres, and are nearly all occupied by Mr Robert Morrison as nursery grounds. In 1851 the foundation of the ancient Leper House was discovered in that part of the lands called the Hospital Croft, on the north side of the Fochabers road, and a few yards east from the railway. The building must have been extensive, as nearly forty cart loads of stones were dug up, some of which were large round boulders, and appeared to have been built with blue clay. There is no record of when the Leper House was first established in Elgin, but it must have been at a period very remote. From the twelfth to the fifteenth century almost every town in Scotland had its leper house on the outskirts, where the

wretched victims were obliged to herd together, cut off from the society and almost from the sympathy of their townsmen. A number of skeletons were also found near the same spot—likely the remains of the hapless lepers who were shut out even in death from consecrated ground. From appearances in the locality of the hospital, it is probable that the Lossie at this early period ran so that the Leper House was on its eastern bank and aloof from all ready communication with the town.*

THE ORDER POT.

This deep pool, on a part of the Nursery ground, lies on the north of the turnpike road, on the west side of the Morayshire Railway. Strange ideas of its awful depth, and dark legends of its history have ever haunted the minds of Elgin's boyhood. It is popularly believed that its waters rise and fall in unison with the Lossie, and that it has no bottom. Be this as it may, many thousand tons of rubbish from the Cathedral and other places about the town have been emptied into it, and its circumference is now gradually diminish-

* William Cumine of Auchray and Pittulie in 1693 bequeathed a sum of money to be laid out in the purchase of lands, the rents of which were to be applied for the maintenance of four poor old decayed or broken merchants, being residents within the burgh, and burgesses thereof. With part of the amount the Leper lands had been purchased previous to the date of the deed of mortification, and since that time the four crofts called the Hospital Crofts, and a rood of burgh land, have been purchased for the purposes of the charity. The balance of £165 15s lies in the hands of the Town Council, for which interest at 5 per cent is paid yearly. The presentation to the charity is vested in the donor's heirs and successors jointly with the magistrates of Elgin, who alternately have the right of nomination.

ing. To antiquarians the Order Pot is pregnant with interest, and certainly not without cause, for perhaps it is the only entire specimen in the North, apart from river pools, where our forefathers in the simplicity of their hearts, dispensed “law and justice” by virtue of water. Tradition suggests that it may formerly have been called the Ordeal Pot, for we find in “Rhind’s Sketches” a long detail of the trial of a witch by water in this pot, in which it seems the hapless victim was likely to escape her tormentors, when a leper came from the lazarus house and charged her with having conveyed the infection to him through an ointment for an “imposthume” he had on his arm. The poor man bared his scaly and shrivelled limb in presence of the mob, who were thus maddened to murder the hapless Marjory Bisset, crying out as her departing breath bubbled on the surface of the pot, “To Sathan’s kingdom she hath gone.” In all trials for witchcraft by water, the test of innocence or guilt was to swim or sink. Poor Marjory seems not to have been able to do the former, and because she sank it was considered a sure sign of her guilt.

THE PINEFIELD NURSERIES.

The Pinefield Nurseries were commenced on a very limited scale more than fifty years ago by the late Mr David Forbes. In 1835 they were purchased by Mr George Morrison, seedsman, Forres. They afterwards rapidly extended—field after field having been incorporated with the original grounds until the greater part of the Leper Lands were included. After a time Mr Morrison assumed his son Robert as partner, and the

Nurseries were conducted under the firm of George Morrison & Son, but for the last eight years they have been held by Mr Robert Morrison. The Nurseries cover upwards of forty acres of land, the greater part of which is laid out for the cultivation of hardy forest trees, besides a considerable breadth devoted to the culture of the different varieties of ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, and fruit trees. A large extent of glass forcing-houses for flowers near the proprietor's residence contains an excellent assortment of exotic and other plants. Mr Morrison has also several detached pieces of ground on the south side of the town on lease as nursery ground. Visitors with a little time to spare could not spend a more pleasant hour than in a stroll through these beautifully arranged grounds.

Elm Grove.—The Pansport road separates the grounds of South College from Rosebank Gardens and a detached part of the Maisondieu Lands. At the point of junction between this road and the Fochabers turnpike, on the east stands Elm Grove, a beautiful two-storey residence, in the Elizabethan style, built in 1856 by James Watson, Esq., who in 1865 sold it to Frederick Hollway, Esq., India. It has a highly ornamented receding entrance, facing southwards, with a bay window on each side, crowned with battlements, and terminated on the second storey by pointed gables.

Easton House, the property and residence of Dr James Taylor, late in the H. E. I. C. service, stands on the west side of the turnpike road, almost opposite Elm Grove. It is a large handsome three-storey house, in the Anglo-Italian style, fronting east, with a finely proportioned projecting porch, in which the principal

entrance is placed. A well enclosed and rather extensive kitchen garden lies at the west end of the house, while in front is a neat parterre and flower garden.

MAISONDIEU.

The lands of Maisondieu extend from the Fochabers road on the north to the Tyock on the south, and from Friars Croft (belonging to Lord Seafield) on the west, to the Leper lands on the east. Anderson's Institution and Easton House occupy the north end of these grounds, and the other portions are being feu'd out by the Town Council. The Maisondieu Hospital stood on the green mound in the field a little south of Easton House, and was burned to the ground by the Wolfe of Badenoch at the same time as he fired the Cathedral. It was established for administering hospitality to pilgrims and strangers, as well as for dispensing charity to the native poor.* Part of the foundations were visible

* After the Reformation, the Preceptory of Maisondieu having fallen to the Crown, James the Sixth of Scotland and First of England, by Royal Charter of Confirmation, dated the last day of February, 1620, granted to the Provost, Bailies, Councillors, and community of Elgin, and their successors, the Hospice or House of Preceptory of Maisondieu, lying adjacent to the said burgh, founded for the aliment and support of certain poor and needy persons, with the right of patronage to the same; together with all lands, tenements, rents, &c., &c., belonging thereto, and of which the preceptor and biedmen thereof were in possession at any former period; together with the town and lands of Over and Nether Manbeen and Haugh of Manbeen, the lands of Over and Nether Kirdels, the lands of Over and Nether Pittensear, for the support of certain poor and needy persons, according to the original establishment thereof; and also to maintain and support a teacher of music, properly qualified, to instruct the youth within said burgh in music and other liberal

several years ago, but not a stone now remains. It is intended to have the site planted with shrubs and enclosed, to prevent further encroachment.

Morayshire Sawmills.—The Morayshire Sawmills on the east side of the railway crossing, were established in 1854 by Messrs Urquhart, Watson, & Co., who afterwards sold them to Messrs Anderson and Wilson, from whose trustees they were bought in 1864 by Colin Mackenzie, Esq., the present proprietor. These mills contain the usual machinery for cutting up home and foreign timber, and machines for manufacturing flooring, scantling, and for running mouldings.

Elgin Net Manufactory.—Adjoining the Sawmills on the east is Messrs Robert Orr & Co.'s Herring-Net Manufactory—a branch of industry but recently introduced to Elgin, being erected by the present proprietors in 1863.

Ashgrove House, a long range of two-storey building, lies on the south of the Morayshire Railway, and east of the Linkwood Road. It was erected by William Grant, Esq., nearly a century ago, and was then called Grant's-Green. From Mr Grant's heirs it was purchased by the late Dr James Coull, Commissary of Moray, about 1795, who long resided there, and changed the

arts, and also to answer and promote the affairs of the said burgh, because the common revenue was barely sufficient for its own purposes. The lands of Maisondieu were accordingly appropriated by the Magistrates for the purposes designed by the charter. No evidence can be found that those of Manbeen, Kirdels, and Pittensear had ever been in their actual possession; but the charter gives right to the casualties of these lands payable at the time to the hospital of Maisondieu, the *Dominium utile* being in the hands of lay proprietors. The lands of Maisondieu contained 29 acres, 2 roods, and 6 falls.

name to Ashgrove. From Dr Coull's heirs the house and adjoining property were purchased in 1858 by William Topp, Esq., who now resides there.

ANDERSON'S INSTITUTION.

Major-General Anderson, born of humble parents and craddled in the baptismal font of the Elgin Cathedral, was apprenticed to a staymaker in Lhanbryd, from whom he ran away and joined the H. E. I. C. service as a private soldier. By good conduct and distinguished qualities, he rose in the army to the rank of Major-General. During his long residence in the East he amassed a large fortune, which at his death he devoted to the good of his native town.* The Elgin Institution—a lasting monument to his memory—was erected at

* Marjory Gillan, the mother of General Anderson, was the only daughter of respectable parents living in the parish of Drainie. Contrary to her parents' wishes, in 1745 she married a private soldier, named Andrew Anderson, a native of Lhanbryd. She shortly afterwards left the country with her husband, by whom she is said to have been cruelly treated. In 1748 she returned to her native country, with a child in her arms, and her mind completely shattered, when she took up her abode in the ruins of the Cathedral. Her child grew, notwithstanding the great vicissitudes to which he was exposed, and was ultimately apprenticed to his uncle, a staymaker in Lhanbryd, from whom he fled, and found his way to London. He enlisted into a regiment under orders for India, where, by his natural aptitude as a linguist and indomitable perseverance, he acquired a thorough knowledge of Hindostanee and other native tongues. By means of his learning and valour he speedily rose in his profession, and after amassing a handsome fortune, he returned to his native town, where he lived for a few years in the house now converted into the Commercial Bank. He died in London in 1824, leaving the munificent sum of £70,000 to build and endow the noble institution that bears his name.

a cost of about £12,000, and opened in June, 1833. It is a quadrangular building, in the Grecian style, two storeys high, surmounted with a circular bell-tower and dome. The principal front and entrance is to the north, having two sides of the quadrangle projecting, and in the centre between these projections is a portico of two beautiful Ionic columns, with entablature rising to the height of the building, over which is a sculptured group of three figures emblematical of the founder and the objects of the charity. The west side has also its portico of six plain Doric columns and entablature rising to the base of the second storey windows. The interior contains ample accommodation for fifty children and ten aged persons—the former are admitted to the charity at the age of eight or nine, and remain till fourteen. On leaving the institution, the boys are apprenticed to any trade or occupation they may desire, and during the continuance of such apprenticeship have an allowance made them each year, and the girls are generally sent out as domestic servants. A public free school, on the Lancasterian system, is attached to the institution, having a separate entrance, for the education of male and female children whose parents, though in humble circumstances, are able to maintain and clothe them. The average daily attendance is about 300. Great as are the benefits conferred on those admitted to the other portions of this charity, they are not at all to be compared with the good done by this school, where thousands of boys and girls have had a good sound education imparted to them, who, but for this important branch, might never have been taught

even to read. On the west is the porter lodge, a small neat octagon building, with a pointed roof. The garden lies on the south. The whole occupies about four acres of ground, and are enclosed on three sides of the square with dwarf wall and railing. Strangers are admitted to view the interior arrangements at certain hours every day, on presenting an order from any of the Trustees. The Trustees are—the Sheriff and Sheriff-Substitute of the county ; the Provost or Chief Magistrate of the burgh ; the Moderator of the Presbytery of Elgin ; and the two collegiate ministers of the parish.

At this point Institution Road branches off to the left, leading in a direct line to Moss Street. A little farther on, on the right, is King Street, already noticed. On the left is the *Bied-House*. The original Bied-House was built in 1624, to contain four poor persons, with a piece of ground for each attached. This building having become ruinous, the Magistrates and Town Council erected the new one on its site in 1846. It is a narrow building with small double windows to the street. Over the entrance is the inscription tablet which had been placed on the old building, having at the top the words, “Hospitalium Burgi de Elgin, per idem conditum,” with date 1624. Underneath is a pilgrim with staff in hand, and the motto, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.” Each biedman, besides the accommodation of house and garden, receives £10 10s per annum. After passing the Bied-House, on the right is *Collie Street*, a long range of buildings erected by the late Alexander Johnston, Esq. of Newmill, as dwell-

ing-houses for his workmen. On the left is *Queen Street*, formed about 1846, on the east side of which there are two very handsome residences. The one in the centre was built by Colin Mackenzie, Esq., and now belongs to Mrs Macdonald. The other was built by Mr Alexander Urquhart about 1849, and sold by him to Benjamin Wickham, Esq., Paymaster-in-Chief, R.N., who greatly embellished and enlarged it. The entrance is in a projecting gable, with coat of arms, and on each side is a very handsome bay window, with cornice and centre scrolls. On the south-west corner is *Friars House*, built by the late Archibald Dick, Esq., and now the property and residence of Captain James Stewart of Lesmurdie. It is a cottage-built house, with massive porch and ornamental vases on the south side.

THE GREYFRIARS.

Greyfriars Street extends from the north end of Queen Street to Moss Street. The first object of attraction on the left is The Greyfriars, the property of Captain James Stewart of Lesmurdie. There was a monastery of Franciscan Minorites or Grey Friars at Elgin, endowed by Alexander II., as early as 1214 or 1249, which appears to have been built on the ground now occupied by Dunfermline Cottage; and it is very probable that on its decay the one whose beautiful ruins now remain had been erected. Keith, in his "History of the Religious Houses in Scotland," states that Bishop John Innes, who was consecrated in 1406, and died in 1414, laid its foundations. The archi-

tecture of the chapel is plainly of the fifteenth century, and the walls are pretty entire.* In each end is a large window, and five smaller ones in the north wall, through one of which an ash tree has grown, and is now four feet in circumference where it enters the window. The soles and mullions of the windows have all disappeared, and only the spurs of the tracery work at the tops of the arches remain. The interior is still used as a burying-ground by the proprietors. The old Monastery walls now form part of the dwelling-house, presently occupied by Dr F. W. Innes, inspector of hospitals, Ceylon. It is two storeys high, with a couple of wings running at right angles to each other,

* On the 22d February, 1676, "the Deacon Conveener and deacons of the crafts, having obteined for themselves, ther respective crafts, and their sucessors, ffrom the Right Reverend ffather in God, John, be the mercie of the same, Lord Bishop of Rosse, heretablie proprietar of that mannor-place, with the pertinentents therof, lyand on the south syde of the burgh of Elgin, comonlie called the Grayffriars, the libertie, use, and attollerance of the old Kirk, pertaining to the said mannor, called the Grayfriar Kirk; with power to the said crafts to build and repair the same, or anie part thereof, as they shall find niedfull, and to make use of the same for their counsell and meeting place, to all intents and purposes relating to civill affaires onlie, as the attollerance granted be the said reverend father to the said crafts, of the date the fortenthe day of ffebruary instant, in it selfe at more length beares. And becaus the said Reverend ffather has, out of his Lordship's meere kyndness, favor, and guidwill, granted the forsaid attollerance to the forsaid crafts, therefore they obleise them, and ther successors, to remove from, and leave void and red, the forsaid kirk, called the Grayfrier Kirk, in also guid case as the same is at present, and that at any tyme or terme it shall please the said reverend father, or his Lordship's aires, assinees, and successors, to require them to that effect, upon ffourtie dayes premonitione."—*"Social Life in Former Days."*

and has an entrance porch at their point of junction on the south front. This house was mostly built by, and long formed the residence of the Kings of Newmill.*

* It may be very appropriate here to give a short account of the family of King of Newmill, connected with the burgh of Elgin for the long period of 130 years, and to whom for successive generations the town was much indebted. We can trace the family as far back as the year 1570, as residents at Plewlands, in the parish of Drainie. The first we find is William King, tenant at Plewlands in the latter part of the sixteenth century. 2d, his son, John King, also tenant there, a man of considerable abilities, factor and commissioner for the first Sir Robert Gordon, Baronet of Gordonstown. There is much of his writings in the mansion-house of Gordonstown. He died in the year 1670, at the age of sixty-four. 3d, his son, William King, born 1637, a man of great parts. He succeeded his father as factor and commissioner for Sir Robert Gordon and Sir Ludovick Gordon, successive baronets of Gordonstown, and by his care and ability was the means of greatly enlarging their estates. About the year 1684 he acquired from John Paterson, Bishop of Edinburgh (son of the Bishop of Ross,) the lands of Newmill, Pans, the half of Barflathills, with the mansion-house of the Greyfriars, and subsequently many other lands about Elgin. He was Provost of Elgin in 1693, and thereafter at intervals to the period of his death, and was a leading man in the town, which it is probable he represented in the Scotch Parliament. He was largely engaged in trade, both on his own account and jointly with Sir James Calder of Muirton, and others. They had a large export trade to Holland, from which in return they imported wines, spirits, silks, and other foreign commodities. He married in 1682 Margaret Cumming, daughter of George Cumming of Lochtervandich, Provost of Elgin, by whom he had a large family. After a long and useful life he died at his house of the Greyfriars on 27th September, 1715, aged seventy-seven. His son erected a monument to the memory of his father and mother in the Greyfriars Church, as follows :—

“In resurrectionis beatæ spem, conduntur hic reliquiæ viri dignissimi Gulielmi King de Newmiln, urbis hujus Elgini quondam Praefecti, qui 27 Septembris, A.Æ.C., 1715, ætatis 77 animam Deo reddidit. Nec non reliquiæ mulieris spectatissimæ Margarete Cuming, filiæ viri meritissimi Georgii Cuming de Lochtervandich, urbis etiam hujus quondam Praefecti, præfati Gulielmi King, conjugis carissimæ quæ 2ndo Januarii, A.Æ.C., 1714, ætatis 61, animam efflavit.”

4th, William King, his son, born 1692, succeeded, was bred to the

Immediately after passing the Monastery, *Abbey Street*—a broad, open, airy street, with substantial “lands” of houses—breaks off at a right angle to the left, and joins Institution Road. Beyond *Abbey Street* on the right, are the *Police Offices* and *Prison*, the former erected in 1851, and the latter in 1842, to which large additions were made in 1866. There are

law. He was a leading man both in the county and burgh, was Convenor of the County and Sheriff-Depute during the rebellion of 1745, when he did good service to the Government by the active discharge of his duties. He married first Ann Tulloch, daughter of Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy, by whom he had no family ; second, Marjory Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gordon of Dykeside in Birnie—(by his wife, Margaret Brodie, daughter of Francis Brodie of Milton)—by whom he had a numerous offspring, he acquired a large estate in Birnie, nearly one-third of the parish. Mr King held a high position and was a leading man in his time. He died 21st October, 1764, aged 72, universally respected, and is interred in the Greyfriars Church. He had a daughter, Barbara, married to William Stewart of Lesmurdie, which marriage eventually carried the succession of the lands to that family. 5th, William King, his son, also held a high position, associating with the best families in the county, but a more retired man than his father. He died unmarried, 21st July, 1800, aged 65. 6th, his brother Joseph King, a most benevolent, excellent man, born 1744, long engaged in business in London, succeeded. He was Provost of Elgin from 1806 to 1809. He died at the Greyfriars, 4th December, 1809, and was buried with his fathers in the old church there. A tribute to his services is recorded in the Town Council Records of Elgin, 30th September, 1809, when he resigned the office of Provost, after completing his period of office. He was succeeded in his estate by his sister, Mrs Munro, and his nephew, Major-General Francis Stewart, and on Mrs Munro’s death in 1818, General Stewart acquired the whole. Few now living remember the family of the Kings, but it were improper in any account of the burgh of Elgin to omit notice of those who perhaps beyond all others for successive generations supported the dignity and respectability of the town.

eighteen cells for criminals and three for civil debtors, with accommodation for governor and matron.

Moss Street.—Passing Hay Grove Cottage on the left, we reach the junction of Commerce Street and Moss Street. On the west side stands

MOSS STREET UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This church was erected in 1858, at a cost of £2400. The style is Gothic, of the decorated or middle-pointed period, with heavy buttresses at each side, and a handsome, massive square tower at the east end, ninety feet high, finished with an ornamental pinnacle on each corner. There are four two-light windows, with richly traceried heads, on each side, and two at each end, besides a large tracery-light in the centre of the tower. The entrance is by a handsome doorway at the foot of the tower, leading into an elegant lobby with groined roof. A stone stair, branching off on either side of the lobby through pointed arches, conducts to the galleries. The pulpit is at the west end of the building, supported on an octagonal pillar, with a semi-circular stair at each side. Opposite the church, on the south side of Francis Place, is the U.P. Manse.

The principal houses on the east side of Moss Street, are Torr House, Willow Bank (a young ladies' boarding and day school, conducted by Miss Gulland), and Maida Cottage. On the west is Moss Terrace, with the garden extending to *Maida Place*, which here connects Moss Street with Academy Street.

Institution Road branches to the left. Proceeding along it, and passing two fine cottage residences, with

gardens in front, built by James Watson, Esq., wood-merchant—the first occupied by the Rev. P. J. Mackie, collegiate minister of Elgin, the other recently purchased by James Macandrew, Esq., of London, and occupied by the Misses Forsyth—we now reach

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL,

Which was built and opened in 1844, and is calculated to contain about two hundred worshipers. It is in the ancient ecclesiastical Gothic style, with bell-tower or spire at the south-west corner. In the centre compartment of the west front of this spire there is a canopied niche, with richly carved work, intended to contain a statue of St Sylvester, to whom the chapel is dedicated. Under this, and on the left flank of the tower, stands a projecting porch, the entrance to which is by a two-valved narrow doorway, decorated with clustered columns and carved mouldings. Beside the porch is a square panel bearing the arms of Abbé Stewart, beautifully cut.* The corners and west wall are supported by buttresses having long narrow windows between them, ornamented with hood mouldings and carved heads. A richly cusped coping surrounds the south gable, in which is a large window of beautiful tracery work, filled with stained glass. In the

* Abbé Stewart, who was murdered in Italy in 1846, gave a handsome donation, and in conjunction with the Bishop of the diocese and the late Rev. John Forbes, collected in England and elsewhere the funds necessary for the erection of this really beautiful church, which was built during the incumbency of Mr Forbes—a gentleman and a scholar who was respected and esteemed by all denominations of Christians in Elgin.

north end is a similar window, which lights the chancel where the altar is placed. The altar is highly decorated and finished in imitation marble of various kinds. The chancel is divided from the body of the chapel by a stone arch and carved oak railing. The pulpit is corbelled from the corner of the chancel wall, and is approached by a private stair. The canopy is in imitation of an imperial crown, and surmounted by a gilded cross.

Laurel Bank.—Farther east, on the opposite side of Institution Road, is Laurel Bank—a large Scottish castellated mansion, surrounded by a high stone wall and extensive garden. There are three gables on the south front, two on the north, and one on the west. In the centre gable on the south side is the entrance, over which is a small, pointed oriel window, corbelled from the wall. Beside the entrance, and also on the west gable, is a large two-storey bay window. At the north-west gable is a slender octagon tower terminated with battlements; and between the gables on both north and south elevations is an initial-dormor window. A moulding runs along the base of each storey, and the top of the walls are finished with parapet and pedimented coping. Each gable is decorated with a pinnacle at the base and top. Laurel Bank was built by the late Dr Geddes, of the H.E.I.C.S., in 1849. Dr Geddes died in 1861, after which it was occupied by his widow, who on her death in 1867, in accordance with her late husband's wishes, left it to her niece, Mrs Geddes, Orbliston.

Croft Cottage, a neat cottage residence, the property of Mrs Duff, stands next to Laurel Bank; and

opposite it is the *Bowling Green*, opened for play in 1866, by the Bowling Club organised the previous year. On the east side of the Bowling Green is Friars Park, the residence of John Stephen, Esq., late tenant of Coulartbank. It is a substantially built two-storey house, with handsome pillars at the entrance and a bay window on either side, which commands a very pleasant prospect southwards. Immediately in front of Friars Park is *Seafield Terrace*, the commencement of a new street intended to run in a straight line to the Maisondieu Road near the Sawmills.

Trades School.—Returning to Moss Street, on the left is the Trades School. This seminary was established in 1824, under the patronage of the Six Incorporated Trades, for the education of the children of their class. An excellent school-room, with house and garden for the teacher, was built about thirty years ago by public subscription, aided by a grant of £120 from Parliament. To the former accommodation an additional class-room was added in 1864.

Opposite the Trades School is Mary Villa, the property of Mr Fletcher, grocer; and on the south side of *Alma Place* is Southfield Cottage, belonging to James Skinner, Esq., Drumlin.

South Villa.—The entrance to South Villa is on the right, by a handsome gateway. This elegant residence was built by Mrs Grant of Elchies, but before it was finished was conveyed by her to Captain Courtland Macgregor Skinner, who had married her daughter. He enlarged and embellished the building, and after having occupied it for some years, he sold the place to the late Captain Peter Falconer. His widow, who died in

1866, directed the house and grounds to be sold, and the proceeds to be paid to two charitable societies in London, when it was bought by Miss Larkworthy, Mrs Falconer's niece. South Villa is a large two-storey building, with finely-dressed freestone front, surrounded by beautifully arranged pleasure-grounds. There is a handsome semi-circular portico at the entrance on the south side, surmounted by a neat railing forming a balcony. The east end, facing the entrance gate and approach, is semi-octagon, with three windows on each storey, and ornamental balcony on the second.

Station Hotel.—After passing a number of good dwelling-houses, partially concealed amongst the trees on the high ground to the right, and three fine new houses on the left, we reach the Station Hotel, which was erected in 1857 by the Morayshire Railway Company, and afterwards sold to James Grant, Esq., solicitor, who in 1860 greatly enlarged its accommodation by adding a back wing, containing about twenty additional bedrooms. It is a fine four-storey block of building, in the Italian style of architecture, with the front facing southwards. Attached to the west side is a coffee-room, with flat roof surrounded with balusters, forming a verandah, to which access is had from the main floor of the hotel.

The Morayshire Railway Station.—This station was the first built north of Aberdeen, and has since the leasing of the Morayshire line by the Great North of Scotland Railway Company been greatly enlarged and improved by the erection of new booking-offices and waiting-rooms. There are two passenger platforms, covered by a double-ridged roof, and lighted from the top. The

roofs are supported in the centre on strong metal pillars, and firmly bound together by handsome iron bracings. The original booking-office and waiting-rooms are occupied by the Secretary and clerks of the Morayshire Railway Company. The line here passes under the Rothes Road, and forms a junction with the Highland line between the two stations.

Dalehagle House.—On the south-west corner of Moss Street, opposite the Station Hotel; is Dalehagle House, belonging to and occupied by James Grant, Esq., solicitor. It is a very handsome two-storey residence, erected in 1865, with the entrance in a slight recess on the south front, having a handsome portico of four pillars supporting a balustraded balcony to match those on the top of the bay window on each side. The grounds occupy the entire space between Moss Street and Academy Street, and are approached by an entrance on either side through massive iron gates with sculptured pillars, each bearing the monogram “J. G.”

Moss Street here terminates. In front, the *Rothes Road* leads across both lines of railway through the lands formerly called the Moss of Strathcatt to New-Elgin, and the parishes of Rothes, Birnie, &c. The *Maisondieu Road* branches eastward to the Morayshire Sawmills, where it divides into two—the one crossing the railway leads past Ashgrove to Linkwood, Black-hills, &c. ; and the other turning northwards passes through the Maisondieu lands to the Fochabers road. *The Station Road* turns westward from Moss Street, separating the Wards from the Crofts. In 1861 the sudden influx of traffic created by the railway rendered it necessary to make the eastern portion of this road

nearly double its original width, and to raise it to a higher level. It is now being widened and improved from Guildry Street to the Elgin Sawmills. On the north side is Dalehapple House, already noticed, Agnes Villa, and Victoria Villa. On the south is the Highland Railway Station.

THE ELGIN ACADEMY.

Academy Street runs parallel with, and a few yards west of *Moss Street*. The most important building in this street is the *Elgin Academy*, situated near the north end. This seminary is under the patronage and control of the *Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council*, and is partly endowed and partly supported from the funds of the town. There are three separate departments—*English, Mathematical, and Classical*—under respective masters, who each hold their appointment direct from the *Council*. The old *Grammar School* and *Sang School* formerly stood at the top of *Commerce Street*, then known as the *School Wynd*. The present buildings were erected in 1800, principally by public subscription. The grounds occupy a square space of 1700 yards. The *classical and mathematical class-rooms* occupy the north side. The *English class-room* and *janitor's house* stand at the south side. A high stone wall protects the grounds on the east and west, the open space in the centre being appropriated as play-ground. In 1867 the buildings underwent a thorough repair, and were considerably modernised in appearance. The internal fittings of the *English school* have been entirely renewed, on the

most approved principles, and a neat porch has been added to it, which not only improves the appearance of the building, but renders it in every respect most comfortable. The other class-rooms have also been very much improved both internally and externally. A new belfry has been erected, and an ornamental iron gate, with handsome stone pillars, graces the entrance to the play-ground and schools at the west. The whole expense has been defrayed by subscriptions, raised chiefly among the heritors and wealthier citizens of Elgin. The schools are examined by clergymen selected by the patrons, previous to the annual summer vacation, which commences about the end of June. There are several educational endowments connected with the Academy, the principal being the Ettles Bursary, the Macandrew Prizes, and the Allan's Reward of Merit.*

* ETTLES' BURSARY.—Misses Anna and Mary Ettles, residing in Castle Street, Inverness, by deed of mortification, dated 31st August, 1863, disposed to the Sheriff-Substitute and the two collegiate ministers of Elgin £500, being the amount of 50 shares in the Highland Railway Company, for the purpose of establishing a bursary in the University of Aberdeen, to be called the Ettles Bursary, to be competed for in the year 1864, and thereafter as it shall become vacant, by students who have been at least three years in regular attendance at the Elgin Academy, and who are natives of the town and parish of Elgin, or sons of parents who have been householders therein for at least five years previous to the date of competition. The competition and the subjects of examination are to be advertised one year previous to its taking place; the trustees to appoint examiners who shall report to them the successful competitor, and they shall thereupon present him to the bursary, which he shall be entitled to hold for four consecutive sessions if he shall continue so long to prosecute his studies at said University, and if not, then for the whole space during

Elgin Girls' School.—The Elgin Girls' School is situated beside the Academy, on the west side of the street, and was established in 1832 for the education of children, to which an industrial department was

which he shall continue at the same. The annual value of this bursary is about £21.

THE MACANDREW PRIZE.—The late James Macandrew, Elgin, by his will, dated the 6th September, 1822, bequeathed the sum of £200 sterling for the benefit of the Grammar or Latin School of Elgin, the principal to be sunk for ever, and the interest to be applied for books and otherwise, as premiums to three boys at the annual public examination of the school who shall give the most approved specimen of their yearly progress. The bequest to be administered by the Grammar School Master, the two Collegiate Ministers, and the Provost of Elgin.

ALLAN REWARD OF MERIT.—The late John Allan, M.D., H.E.I.C.S., a native of Elgin, by his will, dated 30th April, 1833, bequeathed to the Chief Magistrate of Elgin and the several Teachers of the Academy, in succession, as Trustees, the sum of £400 sterling, to be lent out on heritable security, for the purpose of establishing, from the annual proceeds, three annual prizes in the Academy, to be payable on the 30th December yearly, being the anniversary of his birthday, equally among three pupils, one in each of the Latin, Mathematical, and English classes, who shall be found at the annual examination best to merit a prize on account of proficiency in their respective studies. No pupil to receive the prize two years for one branch, and a preference to be given to pupils of the name of "Allan." The prize to be called "Allan's Reward of Merit;" and a regular record of prize-holders to be kept, and their names advertised.

DICK'S MORTIFICATION.—John Dick, of Hart Street, Covent Garden, London, by a codicil to his last will, dated 12th March, 1786, bequeathed the sum of £120 sterling "to the Magistrates and Provost of Elgin for the time being, to be placed out at interest from time to time, to be paid by them and their successors for ever, to the Teacher of the Free Grammar School of Elgin for the time being, in augmentation of his salary." The Classical Master receives the benefit of this mortification by an addition to his salary of £5 more than the other Masters.

added in 1856. It is supported chiefly by public subscription, and is under the management of a president, treasurer, secretary, and committee. The school is conducted by a female teacher, assisted by several pupil teachers.

Besides the Academy and the Girls' School, the principal houses in Academy Street are South Bank, the property of the Rev. Dr Duguid (the residence of D. Macleod Smith, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute;) May Bank Villa, Woodbine Cottage, Bon-Acord Villa, and Anderson's Photographic Studio.

Reidhaven Street runs north and south, connecting Moray Street and the Railway Station Road. As its name indicates, Reidhaven Street is built entirely on ground belonging to the Right Hon. the Earl of Seafield. It is built on the east side only. The houses are in a great measure of a uniform design, the greater number being occupied by the proprietors. At its north end stands the *Baptist Chapel*, erected in 1850, and seated to contain about three hundred persons. The chapel is a very neat and chaste building, with narrow Gothic windows, having the entrance in the west end, fronting the street. Over the doorway is a stone tablet, with the name and date of erection.

Guildry Street.—This street is wholly built on ground belonging to the Elgin Guildry Society. It connects the centre of the town by Batchen Street and Batchen Lane in a direct line with the Highland Railway Station.

FREE HIGH CHURCH.

At the north-east corner of Guildry Street stands the Free High Church, erected in 1843 at a cost of about £1500, and seated to contain nearly twelve hundred persons. It is a large, plain building, lighted on either side by five windows with circular Gothic heads, and by two of similar dimensions in the south end. The entrance doors and staircase leading to the galleries are at the north end, in an abutment about eighteen feet narrower than the body of the church. The only architectural ornamentation bestowed upon the building is at this end, which was intended to have been graced by a moderate-sized spire, but this was found impracticable from the slender proportions of the walls, and had the original design been carried out, the exterior of the building would have appeared to great advantage. At each corner of the north gable, and also of the abutment, is a pilaster with deeply cut moulding, finished on the top with a well proportioned pinnacle. In the centre is a very handsome triple-light window with a profusion of clustered columns, terminated at the heads with capitals, on which the arches rest. The doors are ornamented in a similar manner. The interior of the church is comfortably fitted up and tastefully embellished, the whole having undergone a thorough repair a few years ago. The pulpit is placed in the south end, projecting several feet into the area, and is ornamented with carved panels similar to those on the front of the galleries. A commodious gallery runs round both sides and north end, with an additional one placed above the staircase at the top of the triple-light window—the north gallery

fronting the pulpit being semi-circular. The ceiling is lofty, with intersecting ribs and massive bosses at their point of junction. Five strong tension rods, stretched from side to side of the church, were found necessary to prevent any strain on the lower part of the roof, it having so wide an expansion. This church was very hurriedly erected immediately after the Disruption,—having been just four months in building,—the large and influential congregation meanwhile being accommodated in the Baptist Chapel which then occupied the south end of Batchen Lane.

On the west corner, opposite the High Church, is Mr Reid's property, containing dwelling-house, ware-room, and workshops. On the same side is a handsome two-storey house, belonging to Mrs Gillan, erected in 1846. Adjoining is the Free Church Manse, built by the Free High Church congregation in 1845; it is a fine cottage-built house, with treble ridged roof and projecting eaves, having the entrance from Moray Street, facing southwards. On the east side of Guildry Street, and near the Free High Church, is a double two-storey house, built by the late Mr Smart, now the property of the Rev. G. G. Milne, Cortachy. The next cottage stands on a higher level than the street, and belongs to the representatives of the late Mr Gall. Mr Peter Cumming's property, consisting of two houses entering from Guildry Street, and one from Moray Street, occupies the corner opposite the Free Church Manse.

Moray Street here crosses Guildry Street at right angles, and extends from Moss Street on the east to Hay Street on the west.

SOUTH FREE CHURCH.

From this point South Guildry Street leads to the Railway Station, and here branches off in two divisions, leaving a space in the centre on which the South Free Church was erected in 1853. This is a neat Gothic edifice, with a spire on the north end which rises to the height of 130 feet, and forms a striking object from the heights surrounding the town. It has four sections, each being differently ornamented, and, like the body of the church, is strengthened by a double buttress at each angle. At the base is the handsome entrance to the church, with deeply chased columns, the top of the arch being ornamented by a moulding and clusters of leaves. The second section has small windows to light the porch within, above which, space is provided for fitting up a clock ; and the third section having double-pointed windows, is adapted for a bell. A cornice, with gargoyles at the angles, here runs round the base of the tapering portion of the spire, which is ornamented on either side of the octagon with pinnacles and small two-light windows, and surmounted by a vane. In the north gable of the church, one on each side of the spire, are two elegant double-light traceried windows, which light the staircase leading to the galleries ; and a richly ornamented pinnacle stands on either angle, from which a cusped coping stretches up to the spire. Both the side walls are supported by four massive buttresses, having a handsome Gothic window between each. In the south gable is a very fine wheel window, filled with tracery work, and coloured edges. The interior has just undergone

a thorough repair and re-decoration. The porch under the tower has a groined roof, with bosses on the intersecting ribs ; and from the lobby, which is plain with a flat ceiling, the entrances into the area of the church and the gallery stairs branch off on either hand. The roof of the church is supported on exposed transverse rafters, in the hammer-beam style, and the seats are arranged for about 750 worshippers.

South Guildry Street.—In a street like this, so recently formed, some uniformity of design in building might have been expected, but instead of this being the case, each proprietor seems to have studied how he could make his house different from his neighbour's. In this part of the street, however, there are several very handsome buildings. Helen Villa, erected in 1859, belonging to Bailie John Taylor, is a large and plain residence, having an ornamented entrance facing southwards, with a bay window on each side rising the entire height of the front. The next property, No. 16, belonging to Mr William Hay, Coxton, is occupied by Miss Gregory as a boarding and day school for young ladies. Moss Bank, on the south-east corner, is a well-enclosed, substantial cottage, built in 1861 by Mr Lachlan Mackintosh, who in 1867 disposed of it to Robert Stuart Duncan, Esq., Calcutta, whose family now reside there. On the south-west corner stands Clinton House, with a porch in front and a small greenhouse at the west angle, the residence of Robert John Rose, Esq., late of India. This house, which is a handsome two-storey building, with a number of smaller self-contained tenements attached at the back, was built in 1861 by Mr George Reid,

who a few years afterwards sold them to his brother-in-law, Mr James Shiach, dentist.

SOUTH STREET UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Immediately after passing Guildry Street, on the left is the South Street or First United Presbyterian Church. This church is a most elegant structure, in the early English style. The gable in which the principal doorway is placed fronts South Street, and is surmounted by a neat bell-cot. Over the fine doorway, and within the span of the arch are three trefoil lights, and above this again are three lancet windows, with coloured edges, and another trefoil light or opening between the lancet windows and the bell-cot. The angles and side walls are adorned with buttresses, the effect of the whole being light and graceful in the extreme. On the west side there are five double lancet windows, and at the south end, where the pulpit is placed, there are two windows to match those on the other end. There are no windows in the eastern wall. Inside, the building is equally chaste and neat—the lower part being seated for about 400, and a cross gallery at the north end contains about 100 more. Ample gas light is supplied from two sun-lights placed within an apex or cone in the ceiling near either end of the church.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This church is on the north side of South Street, a little west of the First U.P. Church. It was built in 1866, and cost upwards of £1227. Like a number of other churches in town, it is of the early English or pointed Gothic style. The south gable being to the

street, has the greatest amount of design displayed upon it. A deep base-course runs along the entire length and round the buttresses at the angles. A triple lancet window occupies the centre, with a broken string moulding underneath, the window being finished with simple splays and a hood moulding over the arch, terminating in bosses of foliage. A quatrefoil opening occurs over this, the skew above being stepped and finished with a handsome cross. An octagonal tower or belfry rests on the angle buttresses at the west corner and nearly over the entrance. The pedimented tops of the buttresses finish on the angles of the octagon to correspond with the buttresses on the east angle, and from this basement or side the eight pillars of the belfry rise in one stone each, finishing at top in the form of cusped pointed openings. The cornice over these openings is large and elaborate, being carved at intervals with boss ornaments, from the top of which springs the spire or roof of the belfry, which is steep with a roll moulding on the angles. Four lancet shaped windows on each side admit abundance of light and air into the interior of the church, the entrance to which is on the south-west corner, almost under the belfry. A stair from the lobby leads to a small gallery along the south end. On the north end is the pulpit or platform, and a reading desk. The seats are finished at the ends with simple haffits without doors.

Fraser's Close here connects South Street with High Street, but is not accessible for vehicles. Beyond this point, on the opposite side of South Street, is Mr T. Goodwillie's studio, from which so many beautiful

specimens of sculpture have emanated to grace both the mansions of the living and the tombs of the dead—few mansions or public buildings erected in the north within the last fifteen years being without a finishing touch from Mr Goodwillie's chisel. Nearly opposite is the Rope Manufactory belonging to Mr Robertson, and which extends to High Street.

Weston House, built by the late Colonel Hay of Westerton for a town residence, was subsequently leased by Donald Morrison, Esq., formerly classical master in the Elgin Academy, who converted it into a boarding and day school for young gentlemen, and it is now occupied as such by D. G. Kinmond, Esq. It is a large two-storey house, with projecting gable in the centre of the western elevation having the principal entrance on the one side and the class-room on the other. The situation is light and airy, with croquet green and ample playground.

Hay Street.—This street branches off from South Street at Weston House. Mr John Murdoch, Clod-dach, owns a fine “land” of two-storey houses, with gardens in front. Miss Milne's neat little cottage and well-trimmed grass and flower plots come next; still nearer the street is a long narrow house, belonging to Bishop Kyle. The next two houses, with a commodious entry between them, belong respectively to the Misses Forbes and the Rev. John Pringle. The former has a handsome porch in front, with stained glass window and balusters. An excellent residence occupies the angle where Hay Street and Moray Street join. It was erected by the late Arthur Duff, Esq., Sheriff-Clerk, and is now occupied

by Mrs M'William. The front is of beautifully dressed Newton freestone, and two handsome Tuscan pillars and entablature grace the entrance. On the opposite corner of Moray Street is the residence of Dr Urquhart. It has two wings, the entrance being placed at their point of junction on the south front. The windows in the west front are in slight projections, those on the second storey being finished with gablets. Viewpark, the property of Miss Forsyth, was built in 1850, and is one of the largest and best suburban residences that adorn the south side of the city, and from its position commands a wide and varied prospect. The entrance is on the west side, by a portico with handsome pillars, and joined by circular arches having richly sculptured keystones, over which is a balustrade forming a balcony. On the south front are two large bay windows with balusters similar to those above the entrance porch. Between these windows is a semi-circular niche of polished freestone. A handsome two-storey house belonging to James Watson, Esq., woodmerchant, and Aden Villa, the property of Dr Craig, adjoin each other opposite Viewpark. These two are the only houses built on the west side of Hay Street—the ground, which belongs to Miss Robertson, being feued and laid out as gardens. Darliston Cottage, the property of Miss Craig, is so surrounded by trees that it can scarcely be seen from either hand. Both sides of the south front project, leaving an open recess in the centre, in which the entrance is placed. It was built by Colonel Campbell, who sold it to Dr Gordon, from whose representatives it was purchased by the Misses Craig. On the west side of Darliston Cottage is

Rosefield, a commodious and substantially built house erected in 1866 by James Anderson, Esq., solicitor.

Hay Street proper here terminates, and the road curves westward to the *Elgin Sawmills*, erected in 1860. The machinery consists of circular saws, a vertical machine for cutting up foreign logs, and a planing machine for manufacturing flooring, &c., all being driven by a powerful steam-engine. The buildings and wood-yard occupy the space between the level crossing on the Springfield road and the goods department of the railway, with which the wood-yard is connected by service rails.

Northfield House.—Northfield House, the jointure residence of Lady Dunbar Brander of Pitgaveny, is on the north side of South Street, a little beyond Hay Street.* It is a massive and elegant mansion, three storeys high, surrounded by pleasure-grounds and beautiful park trees. The entrance, which is on the south side with a broad flight of steps leading to the main floor, has a semi-circular top and pilasters. On the third storey, over the entrance, is a large window with two massive mullions, above which the front is finished with cornice and pediment. The walls are terminated in the form of a parapet, and have a narrow space for promenade between them and the roof.

* It may not be out of place to here point out the disadvantage of having no thoroughfare connecting South Street with High Street between Batchen Lane and West Park Road, a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile. One of the greatest improvements to this part of the city would be to open a street through Northfield garden from High Street to Hay Street, and continuing the latter in a straight line through Darliston grounds to the Station Road.

The Manse.—Near the entrance to Northfield House a road branches off to the left, leading towards Bilbohall and Main. On the south side of this road stands the Manse—a massive, square, unornamented building, three storeys high, with the entrance facing the south. A well-kept, very neat garden lies in front; the stable and coach-house are behind.

Immediately west of the Manse, on the same side of the road, is Royal Terrace, built by William Murdoch, Esq., solicitor, in 1866. It is a handsome three-storey house, with basement floor. The south front, where the entrance is placed, is embellished by polished freestone pilasters, mullions, and lintel ornaments. Rosemount, on the north side of the road opposite Royal Terrace, belongs to the Rev. Thomas Stephen, minister of Kinloss, and is occupied by Mrs Cameron, relict of the late Sheriff Cameron. A porch has been added to the entrance, and pointed gables placed over the second storey windows. Adjoining Rosemount is Prospect Lodge, built by the late James Grant, Esq., about forty years ago. After his death in 1865, it was bought by Mrs Forteath, widow of the late Alexander Forteath, Esq. of Newton, and is occupied by her. It is a plain two-storey house, with stair leading to the entrance above the basement floor.

Hotels.—GORDON ARMS—120 High Street.

STATION HOTEL—Moss Street.

CITY ARMS—195 and 197 High Street.

M'NAUGHTON'S COMMERCIAL—Batchen Street.

STAG—Commerce Street.

BISHOPMILL.

The village of Bishopmill is within the parliamentary boundary of Elgin, in the parish of Spynie, and on the north bank of the Lossie. It is approached from the High Street of Elgin either by North Street or Lossie Wynd, both converging at the Tan-Works. Between the Tan-Works and the Lossie, on the west side of the road, are the *Gas-Works*. Gas was introduced into Elgin by a joint-stock company, formed in 1830, with a capital of £5000. The company subsequently found the works too small for supplying the rapidly increasing consumpt, and in 1858 a new gasometer and additional retorts were erected. The Lossie is here spanned by a handsome iron bridge, erected in 1831 in place of a stone one which was swept away by the great flood of '29. It is of peculiar construction—the parapet being in the form of an arch, supports the girders on which the roadway rests. A substantial pier of masonry supports the iron work at each end.*

The Bishop's Mills stand near the north end of the bridge, and as their name implies, were formerly possessed by the Bishop of Moray.† After the Reformation the estate of Bishopmill fell to the Dunbars, who long possessed both estate and mills. About the year

* When this bridge was built, the contract for the iron work was accepted by John Duffus & Co., iron-founders in Aberdeen, who erected the bridge in their own yard—the specifications bearing that it was to be *set up*, but not specifying *where*, so that the Road Trustees had to pay them to take it to pieces, carry it to Elgin, and put it up in its proper place!

† The site was originally granted by William the Lyon to Richard, Bishop of Moray, in 1187, and is described as being above the cruives of the Lossie and below his castle of Elgin.

1752 the whole was sold by John Dunbar of Burgie to James Robertson, Provost of Elgin, from whose family the lands passed to the Earl of Findlater. The mills were for some time separated from the lands, having been possessed by Mr James Robertson, thereafter by the late Mr James Miln, then by the Earl of Seafield, who in 1866 disposed of them to John Allan, Esq., the present proprietor, who here carries on an extensive trade as corn merchant and flour dealer.

The Knoll.—This elegant mansion was erected on the edge of the rising ground beyond the mills, by Hugh Gordon, Esq., about twenty years ago, and in 1862 it was purchased by Brownlow North, Esq., who in 1867 also purchased the house of The Burn, which stood at the south side of the grounds. The entrance is on the east side, by an elegant portico with four polished freestone pillars ; on each side is a narrow projection, having a semi-circular niche ornamented with pilasters and carved shell. On the south elevation is a couple of large two-storey bay windows, and the south-west angle is extended in semi-octagon form, the windows being filled with sheets of finest plate glass. These windows command a magnificent view of the city and surrounding country. Mr North pulled down the house of the Burn, built a retaining wall some thirty feet high, and formed the grounds into a terrace down to the mill lades and banks of the river, the bed of which has been cleared out, the flow-bank made with a gentler slope to the water's edge, and a strong dam-dyke in crescent form placed a little above the old ford, thus forming the river into a small lake, which is here spanned by a handsome iron foot

bridge about 200 feet long, supported on three sections of metal pillars, and on a pier of masonry at the north end. The three spans of the bridge are strengthened by strong tension-rods stretched between the supporting pillars. The south bank of the river being public property, Mr North pays a small sum annually to the Town Council for the right of servitude.

Opposite the entrance to the Knoll is the entrance to Millbank House, the property and residence of Robert Young, Esq., solicitor. Mr Young purchased this property about 1846, laid out the beautiful terraced garden, and built the present handsome, commodious, and substantial house. The style is Elizabethan, having a handsome entrance porch at the angle where the north and west wings meet.

On the west side of the Knoll stands a plain, secluded two-storey house, beautifully surrounded with trees and shrubs, and closed in on all sides by a high stone wall. It was built by the late George Brown, Esq., Linkwood, and has long been occupied by his daughter, Miss Brown.

Ascending *Lamb Street* from Millbank gate, the old Granary stands full in front, on the north side of High Street. The Granary is one of the "institutions" of Bishopmill ; and although now on the wane, it was for many years used for other purposes than the storing of grain. It was here the nucleus of the General Assembly's school was formed, and where the village festivities were held. *High Street* is carried across North Street by "The Dry Brig," erected in 1821. A little farther west, on the south side of the street, is *Hythehill*, the residence of Hugh Maclean, Esq. of Westfield. The

house was built about twenty years ago by the present proprietor as a residence for himself, on his return from the East Indies. It is a large cottage-built house, of an irregular construction. The entrance is to the east, and on the south side are two bow windows overlooking the garden, which is tastefully laid out in three separate terraces, each having a deep retaining wall, admirably adapted for training fruit trees. In the centre terrace are two fine greenhouses. A broad flight of stone steps leads from the house to the river bank, where an ornamental boat-house has been constructed.

Adjoining Hythehill are two fine houses, entering from High Street, and having gardens with excellent southern exposures on the steep bank of the river. The first, the property of Mr Kay, is two storeys high, with a centre gable on the south front, in which a pointed oriel window is corbelled from the wall on the second storey. The other, Braeville, has a projecting roof and a large bow window, with pillars on either side supporting a pediment.

Braemorriston House.—At this point the road turns sharply to the north, and leads to the entrance gate of Braemorriston House, the property of Lachlan Duff Gordon Duff, Esq. of Drummuir, who inherited it from his kinsman, Admiral Duff of Drummuir. The grounds, including several acres of arable land, are enclosed by a high stone wall on three sides, the fourth descending by a precipitous bank to the river Lossie. The mansion-house—which stands on the edge of the bank, commanding an excellent prospect, except where broken by the surrounding fir trees—is two storeys high, of an

irregular form, being built by the late Admiral Duff at different periods, and consists of three separate sections. The entrance is on the north front, and is embellished by a portico of two Ionic pillars supporting an entablature and pediment—a space on either side of the entrance being treated in a similar manner, the one finished with a parapet and the other with balusters. A large wing runs parallel with this section, having an arched recess, and an excellent viney on the south front. The southern section has circular gables, and contains the drawing-room and dining-room, with ante-room between.

Oakbank, standing on the rising ground at the east end of the Quarry Wood, and commanding an extensive view, is a two-storey house, built in 1862 by the late Eric Anderson, Esq. East from Oakbank is *Balmoral Terrace*, where the *General Assembly School* was erected in 1857, as a second school for the parish of Spynie. This is the northern extremity of the burgh boundary, and several fine cottages are springing up outside the boundary line.

THE MORAYSHIRE UNION POOR-HOUSE.

At the east end of Balmoral Terrace is the Poor-house, built in 1864 by the parishes of Elgin, St Andrews, Duffus, Drainie, Fochabers, Dallas, and Alves. The style is plain Elizabethan. Immediately joining the turnpike road is the public entrance, formed by an archway with iron gates, on either side of which are porters' rooms, with probationary and vagrants' wards. The main building is situated about a hundred feet back from the front of the lodge. Near either end

is a cross wing, with sharply-defined gables—other two of smaller dimensions being placed in the centre, having the principal entrance between them on the ground floor. The central portion of the building is occupied by the governor's and matron's apartments, board-room, boys' and girls' rooms, dining-hall, and chapel—immediately behind which are the kitchen, wash-house and other offices. On both sides of the central building, on the ground floor, are the day-rooms, and immediately over these are the dormitories. Two small wings at each end are intended as wards for lunatic paupers. On either side of the main entrance, ground is appropriated as airing yards for the adults, behind which are two yards for boys and girls. The whole ground is enclosed with a high stone wall.

At the east end of Bishopmill stands *East Neuk*. This now beautiful spot was formerly a steep bank of sand, with a few whin bushes and stunted trees. The late Mrs Gordon had it enclosed with substantial walls, got the grounds sloped and tastefully laid out, and in 1860 erected the present handsome house. On her death in 1865 it fell to her son, who is in Australia, and it is now let on lease to Captain Thompson, Adjutant of the Morayshire battalion of volunteers. East from the Neuk, and a little farther down the river, is Deanshaugh House, the property of John Alexander Longmore, Esq., Writer to the Signet, Edinburgh, and occupied by the Misses Barclay.

NEW-ELGIN.

The suburban village of New-Elgin is situated on the south side of Elgin, beyond the burgh boundaries, and nearly a mile from the centre of the town. It has sprung up within the last thirty years, and is rapidly extending, the principal inhabitants being working men. The Rothes road passes through it, and several wide streets have been laid out. Gas was introduced during the summer of 1861; the Elgin Water Company's pipes pass partly through the village, and a large number of the tenements have draw-wells attached to them. There are several substantial two-storey dwelling houses, an extensive millwright and engineering establishment, where steam power is introduced to lessen manual labour; five shops for the retail of provisions and small wares, two bake-houses, and a female school in the village.

THE NEW CEMETERY.

On the east side of New-Elgin, and separated from it by about three hundred yards, is the New Cemetery, opened in 1858. The grounds, then under wood and extending to four acres, were purchased from the Earl of Seafield; they are now enclosed by a stone wall, and formed into terraces. At the south side is a retaining wall, with spaces left for opening vaults, and in the north-west corner is a neat lodge for the keeper. On either side of the principal entrance-gate is a dwarf wall and massive iron railing—the space between which and the keeper's house being laid out in shrubs and flower plots. The grounds are ornamented with cypress, yews, and other trees; while several of the

spaces where interments have taken place are tastefully enclosed and have handsome tablets, obelisks, or headstones. From the highest terrace, where a few seats are placed, an excellent view of the south side of Elgin is obtained. The works were carried out by the Parochial Board of the parish of Elgin, at a cost of £3000, partly borrowed from the Public Works Commissioners, and partly obtained by private loan.

F O R R E S.

“ For Forres in the days of yore
A name 'mong Scotia's cities bore,
And there her judges o'er and o'er
Did Scotland's laws dispense ;
And there the monarchs of the land
In former days held high command,
And ancient architects had planned
By rules of art in order grand
The Royal residence.”

THE Royal Burgh of Forres, the second town in Morayshire, stands on a fertile plain, with undulating hilly ground to the south, and a sloping valley extending by gentle declivity to the north, where the river Findhorn, sweeping round from the southwest, forms an estuary with the sea. It is 75 miles west of Aberdeen, 187 north of Edinburgh, and 25 east of Inverness, and contains about 4000 inhabitants. No ancient documents exist that throw light on the early history of the town, but there can be no doubt that Forres must have been a place of note at a very early period. It is in all probability the *Varis* of Ptolemy's chart ; and Boethius makes mention that so early as the year 535 certain of its merchants, for some trifling cause, were put to death, and their goods confiscated to

the King's use. Far-ius—near the water—is probably the Gaelic derivation of the name. During the ninth and tenth centuries it was frequently visited by the Scottish kings. Donald, the son of Constantine, was slain at Forres. Malcolm frequently resided in the neighbourhood, and was killed in 959 at Ulern, or Vlern, supposed to be Blervie Castle, near the town. King Duffus, when residing in the Castle of Forres in 966, was treacherously murdered by Donald, the governor, who concealed the body under the bridge at Kinloss. Malcolm II. was defeated by the Danes near Forres in 1008. We learn from early historians that the "gracious" King Duncan had his camp at Forres, and that it was when proceeding to join him there that Macbeth and Banquo were met by "the weird sisters" on Brodie Moor. A charter of some lands in the neighbourhood was here granted by Alexander II., probably at the time he restored peace to the province, which had been thrown into disorder by a Celtic chief named Gillescope. Forres does not seem to have increased or indeed kept up its consequence as much as Elgin, which early became the centre of the ecclesiastical establishments of the province, and the resort and town residence of the country gentry. The consequence is that we find fewer remains of antiquity, either domestic or ecclesiastical, about Forres than in Elgin. It was, however, the seat of the Archdeacon, who had a parsonage and chapel dedicated to St Lawrence. There was also a chapel dedicated to St Leonard, at Chapeltown, about a mile south of the town, where the old foundations yet remain. The old charter being destroyed by fire, it is not exactly known when

Forres first enjoyed the privileges of a royal burgh. The oldest one now in its possession is a translation of one granted by James IV. in 1496, which anew erects it into a free burgh, with all the privileges of a royal burgh—with power to hold weekly markets and yearly fairs, and the rights to dues and customs. The weekly markets are held every Tuesday; monthly cattle markets are held throughout the year; and a fat cattle show and competition for prizes immediately before Christmas. The town of Forres possesses an extensive landward estate; the boundary of its lands, a circuit of about fifteen miles, was officially perambulated in 1840. The Town Council is composed of seventeen members—a provost, three bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and eleven councillors. There have been no trades-incorporations in this burgh, but merchant-burgesses only. The guildry was disconnected from the body of burgesses more than half a century ago. The Magistrates and Town Council for the time being are Commissioners of Police, under the Lindsay Act, which was adopted here in 1865; and they are also Road Trustees within the Parliamentary boundary. Justice of Peace courts are held on the first Monday of each month, and the Sheriff holds a small debt circuit court six times a year. Gas was introduced in 1837, and water eleven years afterwards. There are several manufactories recently started in and around the town. The National Security Savings' Bank has a branch here; there are also branch offices from the Caledonian, National, City of Glasgow, and the British Linen Company Banks. A Property Investment Company was formed in 1860, which, it is hoped, will do much to beautify the town by

enabling tradesmen and merchants to erect handsome dwelling-houses for themselves. The only newspaper in the burgh, the *Forres Gazette*, established in 1837, is published every Wednesday. The Highland Railway opened a new era for Forres by making it the point of junction of the lines from Keith, Inverness, and Perth. No fewer than thirty passenger trains arrive at and depart from Forres daily.

The Railway Station is situated a short distance to the north-west of the town. The principal platform is a large triangular space, in the centre of which are the station buildings, consisting of ticket office, waiting rooms, station-master's rooms, and refreshment rooms. Where the Keith and Elgin section joins the main line there are three separate platforms communicating with each other by a lofty, covered bridge, 150 feet long, having a stair ascending from each platform.

A fine broad road leads from the Station to the town. On the left stands *Taylor's Railway Station Hotel*, a handsome three-storey building in the old Scottish style of architecture. The entrance faces southward, and has an arched top, with sculptured key-stone and balcony. The north-west corner has a slight projection from the main building, and is carried up in the form of a tower, and terminated by a flat space on the top, surmounted by a railing.

The Agricultural Hall.—Almost opposite this hotel, on the right, is the Agricultural Hall—erected in 1867 by a joint-stock company, with a capital of £2000—for holding the Christmas shows of the Forres and Northern Fat Cattle Club. The building is an oblong square of plain Grecian design, a hundred and fifty

feet long, and about fifty-eight feet wide. The entrance is on the north end, by a double-arched doorway, over which is a string moulding, having finely carved animals heads at each end. On either side and above the entrance are circular-headed windows, which light the lobby and secretary's office on the ground floor, and refreshment rooms attached to the gallery above. The hall is floored with asphalte, and contains upwards of a hundred iron cattle cribs, those in the centre being moveable. There are two large arched doors in the south gable, and one in the west wall, for the ingress of cattle. A gallery runs along both sides and north end of the building, supported on metal pillars, about ten feet from the floor. It is thirteen feet wide, and affords ample space for exhibiting grain, seeds, roots, farm implements, &c. The gallery front is of open scroll work, from which a series of pillars rise to support the roof on hammer-beam rafters. Abundance of air is supplied from ventilators in the apex of the roof, and light is emitted from a double line of windows immediately under the ventilators, and also from three large arched windows in the south gable. Excellent provision has likewise been made for illuminating the interior by gas light. The buildings and fittings cost £1700.

At the end of the Station Road, on the right, is the *Station Hotel*, a large three-storey building, facing the town. It has a fine entrance porch, with pilasters and ornaments, on either side of which is a two-storey bay window.

At this point there are no less than six roads branching off—the one we have just traversed; two

on the left, the first leading past the *Forres Iron Works* to the goods department of the railway, the next down the burn bank to the Chemical Works, Waterford, Invererne, &c. ; in front the road crosses the burn and enters the town ; that running southwards leads to Altyre, Dunphail, Logie, Relugas, the banks of the Findhorn, Grantown, &c. ; the one leading west is the old turnpike, which leads across the Findhorn by the suspension bridge towards Moy, Kincorth, Dyke, Dalvey, Brodie, and Nairn. Before proceeding further, we may here describe the different objects of interest in the various directions indicated.

THE WATERFORD ROAD.

Passing a neat cottage on the left, we come to the *Cholera Hospital*, which fortunately has never been required for the purpose indicated by the name it bears, and is now partly occupied by a most valuable and philanthropic institution—viz., a training laundry, dressing school, and also a knitting school, where girls are taught the common branches of domestic economy. This establishment was commenced a few years ago by Mrs Sclanders, a lady to whom the town is indebted for the life and efficiency of several of its philanthropic institutions.

The burn is spanned by a foot bridge leading to the Burn Green, and the *Woollen Manufactory*—a building partaking more of the useful than the ornamental. Twenty years ago it was a miserable hovel ; the only machinery it contained was a carder and a teaser. Mr Taylor, the present enterprising proprietor, has by degrees extended the building as the requirements of

the works warranted. The principal articles manufactured are Scotch tweeds, tartans, blankets, winceys, &c., and a particular kind of rug, called the Brodie rug, made from the selvages of cloth, which is now well known in the market.

A short distance down from this, the burn is spanned by an old-fashioned stone bridge of two arches, called the Lea Bridge ; and a few yards farther down the railway crosses it by a girder bridge, resting on three low piers of substantial masonry. Clustering around the railway are extensive works, which add greatly to the wealth and importance of Forres, and give it an air of life and animation rarely to be met with in a town of its size. Here stand *The North of Scotland Chemical Works*, the property of J. T. Wilson, Esq., of Restalrig, near Edinburgh, for manufacturing sulphuric acid, which now forms an important item in agricultural economy ; as the specific gravity of this commodity renders its importation expensive, such a work in this extensive agricultural district must be a great boon to the farmers.*

The *Bone Mill* was erected by Robert Mackessack,

* The sulphur ore is imported from Norway and Germany, and after being broken, is put into furnaces, the heat of which sets free the sulphurous acid. In an oven adjacent there are a number of crucibles containing a mixture of vitriol and nitrate of soda. The heat again decomposes this mixture, and sets free the nitrous acid, which, along with the sulphurous acid, are conveyed by a large tube to the leaden chambers. From a boiler a jet of steam is thrown into the chambers along with the gases. The chambers, of which there are four, are each 80 feet long by 16 feet broad, and 16 feet high. From these works all the manure manufactured in Banff, Moray, and Ross shires are supplied.

Esq. of Ardgay and Waterford, and like the Chemical Works, has also been greatly enlarged.*

Waterford Flour Mills.—In this vicinity the same proprietor has erected an extensive flour mill. The building, which is completely apart from the other works, is four storeys high, and capable of containing upwards of 2000 quarters of wheat and a quantity of manufactured flour.†

* The Bone Mill consists of machinery for crushing bones, and another process for the dissolving of bones and other phosphates. The first process is to carry the bones by an endless band with elevators to the second storey, and empty them into the hopper of the first pair of crushing rollers, from which they pass to another pair of rollers with closer set teeth, and then to a third still finer, from which they are passed over a circular wire riddle into another set of elevators, and carried along a circular wire riddle; the pieces that are too large to fall through the riddle being thrown out at its lower end into the hopper, to go through the same process again. When the bones thus crushed are to be dissolved, they are put into a lead-plated tank, with a shaft running through it, on which are fixed a number of upright bars, each provided with a cross one or bearer, and so arranged as to have together the form of a screw. The tank is then charged with a certain given quantity of sulphuric acid, carried by a connecting conductor from the adjoining Chemical Works. The bones and the acid being closed into the tank, the centre shaft is set in motion by a belt from the steam-engine, until the whole mass is thoroughly fused and amalgamated, after which it is then passed out at the end of the tank along a spout into a large brick-built vat, where the chemical action is allowed to proceed until it exhausts itself, which generally occupies about twenty-four hours. Calcined bones, instead of being ground so finely as those intended to be dissolved, are crushed beneath two heavy edged stones, fastened together by a bar passing between them, and so adjusted as to have two circular motions. These heavy stones bruise the knots and prepare them for the dissolving vat, where the same process as has already been described is again performed.

† The grain is conveyed by elevators from the stores to the winnowing machine, where it is thoroughly cleaned, and then passed

Forres Steam Sawmills, the property of Messrs Bain & Ross, and T. Wilson & Son. These mills are also an important feature in the locality, affording as they do a profitable outlet for capital, and giving employment to a considerable number of men.

On the opposite side of the burn, and at a short distance east from these buildings, are the *Gas Works*, erected in 1837 by the Forres Joint-Stock Gas-Light Company, which has a subscribed capital of £2500. The situation is well chosen, being low-lying, and at a convenient distance from dwelling houses. The works are of a substantial description, and are capable of affording to the rapidly increasing population a plentiful supply of good light. Behind the Gas Works the Magistrates of the town twenty years ago erected a commodious *Slaughter House*, with every modern convenience and improvement. The entry, which faces the Councillors Walk, is classical in aspect—so much so, that one of the Forres Town Councillors when the building was finished, exclaimed “ You breed and feed cattle in a byre to slaughter them in a palace !” Immediately adjoining the Gas Works are *Barley and Oatmeal Mills*, the property of the Messrs Bezeck.

by a screw conductor to the hoppers—seven in number—ranged along one side of the building. The grinding stones are of French burr, and fitted up with a cold blast to prevent heating. From these the flour passes by a screw and elevator to a higher storey, and is thrown into two large silk dressing machines, after which it is sacked and lowered through hatches to the store. Manual labour is as far as possible dispensed with, and machinery of the finest and most approved description has been fitted up throughout the works. A very powerful engine, on Curtis’s condensing principle, accomplishes the whole work, at a cost of about five shillings per day for fuel. It is believed to be the most perfect and economical one in this quarter.

They were erected in 1862, of substantial mason work with brick chimney stalk, and throughout are laid with vermin-proof asphalte floors. The machinery is well adapted for the work, and is driven by a ten-horse power engine. The road passing the Gas Works and the Barley Mills leads along the whole north side of the town, and for a great part of the way it forms the southern boundary of a part of the Forres and Rosefield Nurseries. The Forres Nurseries, proper, are at the west end of the town, and belong to John Grigor, Esq., a man well known over the whole kingdom as a successful grower of the real Highland pine, as well as for his treatises on the native forest and other trees of Scotland.

GRANTOWN ROAD.

Having given a brief outline of the different objects of interest to be seen while passing down the banks of the burn, we will now follow its course in an opposite direction, and notice the principal places on either side of the Grantown Road. On the right, between the road and the houses, is the *Market Green*, a long, narrow stripe of ground which has for several years been found too small for the increasing importance of the Forres stock markets, now that speedy railway transit to the metropolitan markets is obtained. The cheerful looking residence in the corner (No. 1) is Bogton Place; next to which are the *Forres Coach Works*, the property of Mr James Auckland, who has recently erected a large range of show-rooms and workshops on the site of an unseemly and inconvenient building formerly occupied by him. Opposite the

south end of the Market Green a road branches off to the left, and crosses the burn by a stone bridge of two low-set arches ; immediately after crossing which is the *Forres Brewery*—a number of small dingy-looking erections, the sombre appearance of which is greatly relieved by the neat dwelling-house and beautiful parterre of the tenant of the Brewery, Mr Hossack. Keeping the Grantown Road, still on the left, is the fine airy residence of Mr Urquhart, architect, the pillars of the east entrance gate being crowned by miniature representatives of the lord of the forest, which have faced all comers for more than twenty years. There are two commodious workshops here—that on the west side of the road being a neat and unique erection, with verandah in front. At this point a road branches to the left, leading to *Sanquhar Mills*—a large block of buildings, fitted up with extensive and ample machinery—and to the western approach to *Sanquhar House*. (See page 122.)

Immediately after crossing the railway line, a road to the right leads to *Thornhill House*, the property and residence of the heirs of the late William Grant, Esq. It is surrounded by a plantation of hard-wood trees ; the garden and orchard lie in front, and face southwards. The house is two storeys high, and of the plain, unornamented style so much in fashion half-a century ago. The estate of Thornhill for a long period belonged to a family of the name of Forbes, from whom it was acquired by the Urquharts of Burdsyards, and sold by the last of that family to George Grant, Esq., along with their other lands. By the heirs of Mr George Grant it was sold to Mr William

Grant. Beyond Thornhill, on the same side of the road, stands the modern mansion of *Knockomie*, with garden and pleasure-ground, the property of the Earl of Moray, and occupied by Miss Smyth. On the other side of the road from Knockomie, is *Balnaferry*, also the property of the Earl of Moray, tenanted, with the farm, by Mr John Mackessack. On the north side of Knockomie is the estate of *Balnageith*, for many years the property of the Leslies—the late Rev. William Leslie of St Andrews-Lhanbryd being the last proprietor of that name. It was recently purchased from the trustees of the late Alexander Smith, Esq. of Drumduan, by the present proprietor, John Dougal, Esq. of Glenfernness. The estate consists of three farms, the largest one being occupied by Mr John Cattell, as tenant. In former times there was a considerable village at Balnageith, and a few houses of this hamlet yet remain.

THE OLD TURNPIKE ROAD.

Returning to our starting point, opposite the Station Hotel, on the left of the old turnpike road are several excellent and substantial villas, with shrubs and flower plots in front, and well-cultivated gardens behind. Conspicuous amongst them is the residence of John Grigor, Esq. of the *Forres Nurseries*, who besides the track of land on the north of the town, has several large fields laid out as nursery ground in the immediate vicinity of his house. The road is here raised to allow the Perth and Forres section of the Highland Railway to pass under it, thereby destroying one of the principal features of the "West End."

Beyond the railway bridge, the first opening on the right leads to *Edgefield*, the property of James Grant Peterkin, Esq. of Grange, and the residence of Andrew Smith, Esq., late of Inverness. The dwelling-house is a plain, modern building of two storeys, with Venetian windows and portico, and two wings. In front is a large circular well-trimmed grass plot; along the south side of which a footpath leads from the Railway Station to the ferryboat at the Broom of Moy. Beyond and south-west of Edgefield, and belonging to the same proprietor, are the farm and lands of the Grieshop; after passing which the road touches the river Findhorn, where an excellent view of the *Railway Viaduct* over the river is obtained. This viaduct is the most stupendous engineering work undertaken between the Ness and the Spey. A wide beach of shingle extends on the west side of the river, which in time of flood is covered with water. The viaduct is formed of three spans of 150 feet each, giving a clear water-way of 450 feet. There are two massive abutments on either side of the river, and two piers in the centre, founded on solid rock about fifteen feet below the water bed. These support a double series of iron plates, firmly rivetted together, and forming an unbroken iron wall on each side, on which the platform rests. Although the line of railway was opened in February 1858, this gigantic work was not finished till October following, when the three spans were separately tested by a weight of from 160 to 200 tons, and the deflections then observable were from three-eighths to seven-eighths of an inch.

Findhorn Suspension Bridge.—From this point a

pleasant walk up the banks of the river brings us to the Suspension Bridge, built in 1831 from plans by Sir Samuel Brown, R.N. This Bridge merits particular notice, as being one of the greatest ornaments of the county, and the most elegant structure of the kind in Scotland. At this point the river was formerly spanned by a stone bridge of three arches, which was carried away by the flood in '29. The beautiful Gothic arches which form the entrance to the present bridge at either end, are flanked on each side by finely proportioned towers, built of light-coloured freestone, on which rest the massive chains from which the platform is suspended. The whole work was admirably executed at an expense of nearly £10,000, which was principally subscribed by the inhabitants of Forres, aided by the landowners of the district. A pontage is still exacted, and will be continued till the original capital and interest are paid up.*

THE CASTLE HILL.

Having thus described the principal objects in the western suburbs of the town, we will now cross the burn by a strong stone bridge, and ascend the steep brae by what is called Bridge Street and Castle Street. On the left is a number of thatched houses, and on the right is the *Castle Hill*, access to which is obtained by a gate facing the High Street. Within the enclosure the ground is quite level. The Dunbars of Westfield, who for 300 years held the office of hereditary sheriffs

* With this exception, a traveller may pass through the county without being compelled to "stand and deliver"—all tolls having been abolished in 1864.

of Moray, had the Castle as their official residence. The ruins which occupy the centre have no connection with the ancient castle, being the abortive attempt of William Dawson, Provost of Forres, about 1712 to build a town-house, which never reached beyond the first storey. The apartments are arched and lighted with small square windows, which had been guarded by iron stanchions, but these have been removed; and although a coating of mould and grass protects the arches, they are rapidly yielding to decay. The foundations of the old castle, which were of more extensive proportions than the stance of Dawson's town-house, were exposed while the slopes on the north-west were being planted with trees some years ago. The Castle of Forres, like that at Elgin, in all probability was a strong square tower, with battlements, and surrounded by a moat. The property presently belongs to Sir Charles Roderick Macgregor, Bart., London.

Dr Thomson's Monument.—On the level space between the ruins and the western slope of the Castle Hill, stands an impressively grand obelisk, with an elaborate inscription on the western face of the die. This massive pile was erected by public subscription in 1857, and stands sixty-five feet high, the base being six feet high and twenty-four feet square, the die nine and a-half feet square and six and a-half feet high, the plinth six feet square and three feet high, above which the shaft rises other fifty feet, tapering towards the point. The whole of this large mass is built of polished Peterhead granite, with the exception of the base, which is of freestone. The reason of its erection here

is that the projectors being refused a suitable site at the Doctor's native town of Cromarty, his friend, Sir Charles R. Macgregor, who took a leading part in the subscription for this monument, made offer of a site on the Castle Hill of Forres, which was accepted by the subscribers.*

Auchernack Cottage.—Opposite the entrance to the Castle Hill is Auchernack Cottage, belonging to the Misses Grant. It is a neat and commodious cottage residence, with two gables facing westward, and one to the south. The entrance is by a handsome porch at the point of junction between the south and west wings, and the grounds are surrounded by a dwarf wall and iron railing, along which a close hedge of privet is trained, imparting a fine effect and adding to the retirement of the situation.†

* The die bears the following inscription:—“To the memory of Assistant-Surgeon James Thomson, born at Cromarty on the 8th March, 1823, and deceased in the Crimea on the 5th of October, 1854. He was with the 44th Regiment at Malta in 1850, when the cholera broke out and shortly proved fatal to all the surgeons of the corps, himself alone excepted. The skill, fortitude, and humanity displayed by him in arresting the progress of that disease, gained for him the praise of the Commander-in-Chief. He was present with the same regiment at the battle of Alma in 1854; and a few days afterwards, when the British were leaving the field, he volunteered to remain behind with seven hundred desperately wounded Russians. Isolated from his countrymen—endangered by the vicinity of large bodies of Cossacks—ill supplied with food, and exposed to the risk of pestilence, he succeeded in restoring to health about four hundred of the enemy and embarking them for Odessa. He then died from the effects of excessive hardships and privation. This public monument is erected as a tribute of respect for the virtue of an officer whose life was useful, and whose death was glorious.”

† On the site of Auchernack Cottage stood the humble dwelling where one of Forres' most famous sons first saw the light—James Dick,

HIGH STREET.

At the west end of High Street, where the causeway commences, stood the *West Port*; but of its size, strength, or construction, nothing is known. On the left is the *Established Church Manse*. The old structure, erected in 1660, having become rather anti-

Esq., the founder of the Dick Bequest. Mr Dick left his native parish in early life and went to America, where he accumulated a large fortune, and at his death in 1828, bequeathed £140,000 to found the above munificent bequest, by which the parochial schoolmasters in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray each receive from twenty to thirty pounds per annum. The bequest is managed by the Society of Writers to the Signet in Edinburgh. The Statistical Account says—"It is certainly matter of surprise, that the enlightened class of persons who participate in Mr Dick's patriotic and noble generosity have as yet taken no decided steps to testify their gratitude to him, by erecting some testimonial to his memory. The inhabitants of Forres are desirous to unite with those who share so largely in his bounty, in raising some suitable monument in his native town, and where the remains of his parents and ancestors repose, to record the obligation of the country generally, and of the schoolmasters of the three counties in particular, to this great friend of education." Mr Dick's father was a shoemaker and leather-merchant, and a burgess and burgh heritor, owning a close of houses and residing in the front one. Mr Dick's unpretending dwelling consisted of only a "but and a ben," with open fireingle. Above the door was a freestone lintel, with the initials "A.D., E.D." for Alexander Dick and Elizabeth Dick—the father and the mother, with the date 1742. The lintel and entire rybats of the doorway were, on the demolition of Dick's house, picked up by Mr John Miller of the *Forres Gazette*, an indefatigable antiquarian explorer, who had them built into the wall of the Clunyhill Cemetery, in his own family burying-ground, for preservation. Mr Miller has also preserved in his printing office another interesting relic belonging to Mr Dick's house—viz., the flag-stone on which the great educational benefactor's cradle was rocked—the only bit of pavement in the kitchen, conveniently embedded in the clay floor by the ingle-side.

quated for modern taste and refinement, and being in need of extensive repairs, the heritors resolved in 1818 to replace it with a more suitable residence for the parish minister, which in its time has also become obsolete, and ought now to give place to a building more in accordance with modern taste and convenience.

PARISH CHURCH.

Passing a range of narrow closes on the right, and several good specimens of the “bow-yett” style of architecture on the left, we reach the Church-yard and the Parish Church. The burying-ground is several feet above the level of the pavement, and the entrance, having a broad flight of steps, is placed about the centre of the south wall. The church was erected in 1775, and was repaired in 1839, when several of the windows were altered and a new gallery erected, and the interior otherwise improved, making accommodation for upwards of 1000 worshippers. Instead of being superseded by a place of worship worthy of the town and congregation, it was again partially repaired eight years ago. There are four large arched windows on the south side. The entrances are in the east, and the vestry and belfry on the west end. The belfry is quadrangular-shaped, and is formed of three strong pillars, on which the two bells are hung, supporting a pediment surmounted by carved urns—one on each end representing the arms of the Church of Scotland (a burning bush), while in the centre between them rises a shaft, with meridian points. The old Church of St Lawrence occupied almost the site of the present edifice.

On the opposite side of the High Street from the Parish Church, is a fine new property, belonging to Mr William Raff, draper.

Warden's Buildings.—Immediately east of Mr Raff's property is an extensive range of substantial and elegant shops and houses, with an open space in the centre. This excellent property belongs to Colonel Warden, of the 19th Regiment. The Colonel's grandfather was a burgess of Forres, who bestowed a better education than was customary in those days on his son Robert, who afterwards went to India, amassed a fortune, returned to his native town, built this property, purchased the estate of Parkhill in Stirlingshire, and married Helen, eldest daughter of Sir Archibald Dunbar, Bart. of Northfield. Their son, the present proprietor, Colonel Warden, is a Companion of the Bath, and a Knight of the Legion of Honour ; he is also a member of the Sardinian and Turkish Orders of Knighthood. *Roy's House*, a stately old building of three storeys, with “bow-yett,” next claims attention. On the second storey is a square panel, surrounded by an ornamental moulding, bearing an inscription cut in relief. Attached to this building is another of a similar character, with a small gable to the street.

Cumming Street.—The large substantial block of buildings at the corner of Cumming Street, and extending a considerable distance along the west side, belongs to Mrs Manford, one of the daughters of the late John Cumming, banker, the original feuar of the ground and builder of the street. This block comprises a handsome shop, commodious public offices, and several fine dwelling houses.

FREE CHURCH.

At the south end of Cumming Street is the Free Church, a substantial looking building, standing east and west, and occupying the entire space from Cumming Street to Ross's Buildings. The principal entrance is at the west end, placed in a slight projection, which is embellished by four columns supporting an entablature and pediment, from which a bell-tower rises, ornamented with scrolls and capped with dome and vane. On each side of the entrance is a large window with circular top. A lofty well-lighted vestibule leads to the galleries and area of the church. The pulpit, with ample space in front for the choir, is placed in the east end ; and a gallery, supported by iron pillars of a fluted Corinthian pattern, runs round both sides and the west end.

Gordon Street, the property of Mr George Gillan, cabinetmaker, on the north side of High Street, nearly opposite Cumming Street, leads to North Back Street, the Burn Green, &c. On the east corner is the residence of John Berwick, Esq., Rector of the Academy. A range of cellerage about the middle of the street is occupied as bonded warehouses. At the north-west corner of this street is all that remains of the Archdeacon's residence, which was built on the site of the one burned in May 1390, along with the church of St Lawrence, by the Wolfe of Badenoch. Part of the buildings are rapidly yielding to decay, while another portion, with a flower-plot in front, is still habitable. It was for many years occupied by Miss Jane Grant, aunt of Sir Charles R. Macgregor,

Bart., a hospitable lady who lived in the good old style of the last century.

On the north side of High Street, from Gordon Street to opposite the Town's Buildings, are several well-built and valuable properties, the shops having large plate glass windows. First in order is a large three-storey building belonging to James Fraser, Esq., London, the lower storey being built of rock-dressed freestone, the shop doors and entrance to the dwelling-house being arched. A flat ridge, with iron railing, runs along the roof. The next two properties, belonging respectively to Dr Innes and Miss Paul of Hatton, have each excellent gardens at the back. Adjoining these is the fine new house with shop, the property of Mr Purse, draper. The second storey windows are lofty, with a pediment over the centre one—the whole extent of the front being carried up and finished in the same manner.

THE CALEDONIAN BANK.

The first property on the south side of High Street, beyond Cumming Street, belonged to the late Provost Laing. Next is the Caledonian Bank. This is the most ornamental building of its kind in Forres, and was erected in 1854 at a cost of £1700. It is a large and very fine structure in the Italian style of architecture, three storeys high, the entrance being in the centre, with carved shell and pediment above. The bank offices are on the east side of the entrance, and the agent's private rooms on the west; the second storey windows are ornamented with pilasters and female heads, clusters of flowers and fruit, and sur-

mounted with arched and pointed pediments alternately. A belt of circular scallop work runs round the base of the third storey windows, which have a shell moulding on each side. A massive projecting cornice supported on moulded blocks runs along the front, over which is a balustrade with pillars and vases at intervals, and extending along the gables to the chimneys.

In the next property, with arched gable to the street, lived for many years Miss Maddy Macpherson, a lady whose memory is yet verdant in the district; her drawing-room was the rendezvous of the neighbouring gentry, who were charmed alike by her wit and genuine hospitality.*

THE BRITISH LINEN BANKING COMPANY'S BANK,

Which is a three storey, handsome, though somewhat plain edifice, in the Grecian style, comes next in order. The entrance projects slightly and has pilasters on either side, with parapet above. On the second and third storeys the centre slightly recedes, while the end

* Professor Innes of Edinburgh, in his lecture on "Elgin Past and Present," in referring to eminent Morayshire ladies, thus happily sketches this distinguished lady:—If it were not too near her own time, I should like to place here a memorial of Miss Maddy Macpherson, the "Queen of Forres," as she was called. I do not think she has left so good and characteristic a specimen of the Highland lady behind her. Without any superfluous education, she had a consciousness of Highland gentry—never found herself unfit for the society of the highest and most cultivated. Her knowledge of her countrymen was very accurate, and she communicated it in the pleasantest way. With good broad humour, and a play of satire quite free from malice, she made her drawing-room a pleasant place of resort for all comers, while to her friends she was ever hospitable, kind, and cordial.

portions are carried up higher and terminate with parapets. At the west end is an arched entrance to the agent's residence above the bank office.

A neat two-storey house adjoins the Bank, in which the *Post-Office* is placed. It belongs to Mr Hutchison, station-master, Forres. Between Mr Hutchison's property and the Town-House, is the fine three-storey property of Mrs Bowie, containing commodious wine vaults, and accommodation for the extensive spirit trade carried on by Mr Grant. An archway in the centre conducts to the dwelling-houses ; the garden being beautifully placed on the slope extending to South Back Street.

THE MARKET CROSS.

At this point, in the centre of High Street, stands an excellent architectural ornament in imitation of the great crosses of the Middle Ages, and in general outline it is the Edinburgh monument to Sir Walter Scott in miniature. It was erected in 1844, from designs by the late Thomas Mackenzie, Esq., architect, Elgin, at a cost of £180, raised by public subscription. It is in the Gothic style of architecture, and consists of four storeys or sections, resting upon a square base, from either corner and centre of which rises a strong octagonal pillar ; these being joined at the top by transverse arches, support the superstructure. On the second storey the corner pillars are finished with sculptured turrets ; from each springs a flying buttress attached to the centre shaft at four sides of the octagon, the other four having niches for statues. The third storey is also octagon, of smaller proportions

and less elaborate design than that on which it rests, having eight carved pinnacles united to each other by an open battlement. Upon this storey rests a shaft four feet high, terminated by a Latin cross, at a height of thirty-five feet from the ground.

THE TOWN-HOUSE.

Immediately east of the Cross is the Town-House, in the Tudor style, erected in 1839. The Tolbooth, which formerly occupied this site, was built about the year 1700, to which about twenty years afterwards a dome with clock was added. The present building consists of a handsome square tower, which occupies the centre of the High Street. It is a structure of exquisite design and proportions. The entrance is by a high arched doorway on the west. The third storey is surrounded by a bartizan, with square turrets at the corners. The fourth storey, where the clock with transparent dial-plates stands, is also square, and surrounded by bartizan with round corner turrets, having pointed roofs. Within this bartizan rises the fifth compartment, which is octagon and capped with a dome and handsome weather-cock, forming a conspicuous object for many miles around. This building contains the council chamber, the record-room, the town-clerk's offices, and the court-room. In the latter room is a large painting by Cranmer, representing the riding of the marches by the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Forres, in the year 1840—a very carefully executed picture, and the portraits are said to be admirable likenesses of those who took part in this the last riding of the marches. A beautiful stained glass

window behind the bench was presented to the burgh by Mr Smith, Colithie, Huntly, a native of Forres. It represents St Lawrence, the patron saint, in flowing robes and bare feet, standing on a brander ; round his head is a chaplet ; on the right is a crescent ; on the left a six-pointed star ; the motto, inscribed on waving scrolls, is “Jehovah Tu Mihi Deus, Quid Deest” (Jehovah is my God, what is wanting ?) In the Council Chamber is a fine oil painting of the celebrated tournament held at St John’s Mead in the latter part of the fourteenth century, also painted by Mr Cranmer, and presented to the town by the Earl of Fife. In the foreground are the gallant knights in full armour and with penons streaming, mounted on high-mettled impatient chargers, wending their way to the appointed rendezvous, where tents are pitched and active preparations going on for the tournament ; the Castle of Darnaway appears in the distance amongst the tall trees of the vast forest ; and the blue waves of the Moray Firth and the hazy hills of Ross and Sutherland form an appropriate background.

Behind the Court Room, and extending for some distance down Tolbooth Street, are the Prison Cells, three in number, which are generally empty, as all prisoners condemned to any lengthened period of confinement are sent to Elgin prison.

Tolbooth Street.—The east side of this street for a considerable distance is occupied by a range of wretched looking tenements, which are to be removed and Falconer’s Museum erected on the site. Next, and lower down the street, New Markets are also about to be erected for the sale of fish, flesh, and other com-

modities now exposed on the open street. The erection of market buildings is one of the most desirable improvements the inhabitants of Forres could inaugurate, either as regards the architectural appearance of this part of the town, or advantage to the domestic economy of the people.

Boyne Place—the property and residence of Mr James Michie, chemist, ex-Provost of the burgh—was built by Mr Eadie about fifty years ago. It is a good specimen of a town-house of last century, having a basement floor and a flight of steps leading to the entrance, which is placed in a slight projection, carried up the whole height of the walls. Near the top of this projection is a circular light, which greatly relieves the heaviness of the pedimented finishing above.

On the opposite side of the street is the house (the entire front is covered by a magnificent pear tree) where resided the late Alex. Falconer, Esq., who died in 1856, leaving the handsome donation of £1000 for the purpose of establishing a museum in the town. His brother, Dr Hugh Falconer, H.E.I.C.S., a man well known in the scientific world, in addition to a legacy of £500, left an assortment of curiosities, collected with great care and taste, to form the nucleus of the collection.

Farther on, Tolbooth Street is crossed by South Back Street at a right angle. On the left is the entrance to the *Free Church Manse*, which has a productive garden and two fine specimens of the copper beech tree in front. The Manse has recently been enlarged ; the entrance faces southward, and has a bay window on each side,

over which, on the second storey, are arched or Tudor gables, the gablet of the window above the entrance being of the same construction.

The street on the east side of the new Independent Church is *Bullet Loan*, which is the principal outlet on the south side of the town, and leads to the Cluny Hills, the Hydropathic Establishment, and on to Rafford, Pluscarden, and Dallas. On the west is the road leading past Apple Grove to Sanquhar House. (See p. 122.) The property of *Apple Grove*, consisting of dwelling-house, orchard, garden, and offices, with three acres of arable land attached, for some time belonged to the late Mr James Grant, merchant in Forres, and was purchased in October last by Mrs Cheetham for £1100.

The *Independent Church* is a neat Gothic edifice of fair proportions, surrounded by a dwarf wall and railing. The entrance faces Tolbooth Street, and has deeply carved mouldings; above which is a treble lancet window, with string mouldings at the base; higher up is a trefoil light; and the whole is surmounted by a small bell-tower and cross, bearing the date 1866. The building is amply lighted by four windows on each side, and two in the south end behind the pulpit, and is finely finished inside. The roof is partly arched, and is supported by cross bearers, with pendants at the point of juncture. A small gallery is placed in the north end, while the south end is occupied by the platform-pulpit, with a large Gothic panel on the wall, having a star within the arch, and underneath a scroll with the words, "Peace on Earth."

Returning to High Street—*North Street* is a narrow

lane leading to North Back Street. The property on the east corner, with large window on the second storey, belongs to Mr Rose, baker. The only places in this street requiring special remark are Bell's Hotel and Stabling, and Leitch's Coffee-room. East from North Street is a property, belonging to Mr Bezeck, late tenant of Binsness, comprising two large shops, with dwelling houses above.

Caroline Street runs parallel with North Street, the only building in it worthy of notice being the residence and business premises of Mr Miller, proprietor and publisher of the *Forres Gazette*. Lying here and there beside a neat water-fountain and well-trimmed flower plots, are several highly-prized antiquarian relics.

The National Bank.—The National Bank buildings consist of the bank-office and handsome residence for the agent, and are two storeys high, with projecting ends, while the centre recedes and is finished with cornice and parapet.

On the south side of High Street, near Tolbooth Street, is the property of Mr John Laing, draper; it is occupied by the offices of the *City of Glasgow Bank*, and the Distributor of Stamps. Adjoining this is a four-storey house belonging to Mrs Manford; and the next one of three storeys, with pedimented front, is the property of Mr Wight, ironmonger. A small house, belonging to Mr Hendry, draper, separates this from the property of ex-Provost Kynoch, which extends from High Street to South Back Street, and consists of a good house and shop fronting the street, and a long range of two-storey buildings extending backwards for a considerable distance, and where the Messrs Kynoch

carry out on an extensive scale the different departments of shoemaking, for the home and export trade.

The next property, separated by a narrow lane, belongs to Mr Murdoch, horse-hirer. The front portion is *Fraser's Hotel*, which, being situated in the centre of the town, is the principal commercial hotel. It is a large three-storey house, well fitted up with every convenience for the travelling public. Behind the Hotel, and in close connection with it, is Mr Murdoch's horse-hiring establishment.

Forres Academy.—The space from Mr Murdoch's property to South Back Street is known as the "School Leys," about the centre of which stand the Academy buildings, which are placed east and west, with a smaller wing attached to each side of the entrance at the west end. The front is of finely polished freestone, with four pilasters supporting an entablature and pediment. The Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council are patrons, and the classes are conducted by a rector and two assistants. There are several educational endowments in connection with this school; and a gold medal, the gift of an old pupil, is awarded to the best classical scholar at the annual examination prior to the summer holidays.*

Mechanics' Institute.—On the north side of the street, opposite Fraser's Hotel, is the Mechanics' Institute,

* Robert Taylor, of Starwells, in 1710 bequeathed about £111 sterling to the Magistrates "for the subsistence of the master of the Music School of Forres, who can both play and sing." In 1863, an old pupil of the Academy, then in India, remitted £100 to the Town Council, the interest to provide a prize every year in the classical department of the Forres Academy, either in the shape of a gold medal or money value.

a massive building of classical aspect, having on each side of the entrance a square-headed window within an arched recess, the space between the top of the window and the key-stone of the arch being occupied by a laurel wreath. Four pilasters springing from the base of the building support a projecting cornice and parapet. The entrance leads into a vestibule, on the left of which is the reading-room, and on the right the committee-room. The walls of both these rooms are profusely adorned with original drawings in water-colour by Miss C. F. Cumming and Miss Cumming of Altyre, and other amateurs in the district. In the former room there is a complete set of maps on rollers enclosed in a case, and a large one by Calvin Smith of New York, embracing the United States, Canada, and part of Texas. There is also a good collection of local photographs and engravings. Connected with the Institute is an excellent circulating library, consisting of upwards of 3000 volumes, which are free for perusal by all the members. There are two halls for holding public meetings, concerts, balls, &c.—the one on the ground floor being of good proportions, considerable extent, well lighted, and highly finished; that on the upper floor being of smaller dimensions, of plainer finish, and lighted from the roof. The property was originally built for lodge-rooms by the St Lawrence Lodge of Free Masons—the design being furnished by the late Lady Gordon Cumming of Altyre. In 1855 it was purchased by the office-bearers of the Institute, at a cost of £860, mainly contributed by the generosity of the late Duncan Dunbar, Esq., shipowner, London, Dr J. B. Allan, the founder, and other friends.

Tulloch House.—The grounds of Tulloch House extend from High Street to North Back Street. The house is a large three-storey building, standing a short distance back from High Street, and is well shaded by a row of tall poplar trees. It has a massive freestone porch, over which, on the second storey, is a circular-headed window; the windows on the ground floor being in three divisions by stone mullions. This stately old mansion was built by William Dunbar, Esq., Town-Clerk of Forres, who sold it to Mr Tulloch, a native of Forres, who had amassed a large fortune in India as the founder of the well-known auctioneers' and merchants' establishment in Calcutta, called "Tullochs." It is now the property of the Trustees of the late General Sir Lewis Grant, C.B., and is occupied by Miss Black as a ladies boarding and day school.

Milne's Wynd separates Tulloch House from the adjoining property, belonging to Mr Thomas Murdoch, flesher; and a short distance farther east, still on the north side, is *Batchen Street*, at the corner of which are a fine new house and shop with rounded angle, the property of Mr John Ross. Opposite this, on the south side, is a fine property belonging to Mr Murdoch, Cassieford.

Anderson's Institution.—This institution is a commodious structure in the Grecian style of architecture. The entrance and windows are placed in a slightly receding arch, above which is an entablature with inscription, having a pediment above it, from which rises a tall slender spire, with clock and vane. The south elevation, with entrance from South Back Street, is of a similar character to that of the north, and is

two storeys high, with under-ground flat, giving ample household accommodation for the teacher, who is also at present Session Clerk and Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. The class room runs along the entire length of the building, at the north side, and has an arched roof about seventeen feet high. Some time ago this spacious room was divided by a partition, so as to form a female industrial department.*

Old Mason Lodge.—A short distance farther east, on the north side of High Street, is a two-storey thatched house, with crow-stepped gable to the street, which if not originally built for a masonic lodge, was at one time devoted to the meetings of the mystic brethren, and now belongs to a family of the name of Fridge.† A pedimented panel in the south gable bears

* Jonathan Anderson, a native of Forres, by deed of settlement in 1814, disposed to the Magistrates and Town Council the lands of Cowlairs near Glasgow, the income from which was to be applied for the purchase of a piece of land in a convenient situation in Forres, for the purpose of erecting a schoolhouse thereon, and in defraying the expense of building the said schoolhouse, and keeping the same in repair; also, in paying a salary to a schoolmaster for educating the children of necessitous parents and orphans, inhabitants of the parishes of Forres, Rafford, and Kinloss, in reading, English, writing, arithmetic, and such other branches of education as the said Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council shall judge proper—the extent of which salary to be not less than £40, nor more than £70. The master to be appointed by the Magistrates and Council, and the Institution to be to all intents and purposes a free charity school, and denominated “Anderson’s Institution.”

† A hundred and twenty years ago, John Fridge, merchant in Findhorn, grand-uncle of the present proprietor, carried on an extensive business—exporting grain, and importing wine. He was much respected by the landed gentry of the district; and he must have had some literary taste, as he associated with Archibald Dunbar of Newton, and the Rev. Lauchlan Shaw, the historian of Moray, in procuring books, magazines, &c., from the south.

the initials "A.F." "M.R." with a rose in the centre and date 1660. Beyond this, slightly receding from the street, is the property belonging to Dr Innes, now tenanted by Mrs Grant. Next is "Mission Cottage," also belonging to Dr Innes.

North Back Street here branches off to the left, and runs parallel with High Street, in a direction slightly curved, and terminates near the Bleach-Green, at the burn side. The houses in it are principally one-storey thatched tenements, with the ends to the street; there are, however, a few neat, though small residences with gardens in front, viz., Russell Place, belonging to Mr Alexander Wood and Miss Roy; Eden Cottage, belonging to Miss Anderson; Berbice Cottage, the property of John Kynoch, Esq., tenanted by Mr Burn of the Chemical Works; and North Cottage, the property and residence of Mr John Smith, grocer.

The United Presbyterian Church stands about the middle of this street, at its junction with Batchen Street. This church is in the usual clumsy style of such buildings since the Reformation. The Seceders, thoroughly ashamed both of it and its position, are collecting funds to erect a new church of handsomer exterior in a better locality.

On the north side, and nearly opposite this church, stands the *Infant School*, under the superintendence of Miss Clark. It was erected a few years ago by public subscription, and is calculated to contain about 300 pupils.

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Returning to High Street, on the left stands St John's Episcopal Church, a small but handsome edifice in the form of a Latin cross, with nave and aisles, transept, and chancel. It stands north and south. The entrance is from the High Street, by a handsome portico, on four massive pillars, joined at the top by arches. At the south-east corner is a campanile, or square tower of four storeys, the upper portion being ornamented with balusters at the base and circular arches at the top, terminating with a gilded St John's cross, surmounted by a cock—the emblem of Christian vigilance. The nave and the east transept are comfortably seated for the worshippers ; the organ and seats for the choir being placed in the west transept. The chancel, or head of the cross, is in the form of a semi-circle, with slightly raised platform, divided off by massive oak railings, and contains the communion table, while the reading desk occupies the west, and the pulpit the other corner. From the centre of the transept descends a chandelier with burnished brass scrolls, the lofty roof being embellished and finished with a blue ground studded with stars. The walls are ornamented by large circular-topped pannels, inscribed with the Lord's Prayer, the Sermon on the Mount, and other Scripture quotations, in gilt letters. Adjoining the east side of the church is *The Parsonage*, a model building in the cottage form, having a projecting roof and large bay windows—the views from those in the north are magnificent. Behind the Parsonage, and entering from the Bogton Road at the north side of the town, is a commodious

school recently erected in connection with St John's, and conducted by Miss Wishart under the patronage of Mrs Dunbar Dunbar of Sea Park.

Forres House.—Forres House is a splendid residence, extending, with garden grounds and policies, from the High Street to the base of the Cluny Hills. This site was formerly occupied by a castellated mansion, which was the principal seat of the Tullochs of Tannachy. From this family it was bought by the Grants of Grant, who sold it to Sir Alexander Cumming of Altyre, by whom it was pulled down and the present house erected. Robert Grant, Esq. of Kincorth, the present proprietor, bought it from the trustees of the late Sir William Cumming. There are two porter lodges, one at the west and the other at the east end of the grounds. The latter—being at the principal entrance, which branches off from the High Street—is a neat Grecian building. A broad carriage drive passes with graceful sweep to the mansion house, which is two storeys high, with portico formed by four pillars supporting an entablature. On the south face of each wing the present proprietor has added a handsome bay window, rising the height of both storeys; on shields placed between the storeys of these windows are the proprietor's crest and motto on the one, and his initials on the other. The interior of the house is handsomely furnished, and contains several fine paintings. The dining-room occupies the first flat of the north wing; a neatly arranged conservatory on the same level leads to the drawing-room; the morning-room and principal bed-room occupy the western wing. In front and east of the house

the grounds are tastefully laid out in flower-plots and shrubberies ; still farther east is the garden, which comprises greenhouse, melon-house, and viney. Forres House is the finest residence within the burgh boundaries, combining as it does all the advantages of a town and country residence. It is separated from the street by a high and substantial wall, which completely ensures its seclusion.

Opposite the entrance to Forres House is *Mayfield House* ; and some distance farther eastward is *Cluny Cottage*. The latter has a pretty entrance, with massive polished freestone pillars supporting a cornice and pediment ; in front are two fine scarlet chesnut trees, and at the east end is a small greenhouse.

A little farther on, on the right, is *Bronte Place*, the property of Mrs Macbean. It has a double-valved Gothic doorway, and three lance-headed windows in the centre of the second storey. A road runs along the east side of this property and leads to the Cluny Hills, Drumduan House, &c.

Proceeding eastwards the road is bounded on the right by a hawthorn hedge, beneath which is seen “*The Witch’s Stane*,” which marks the spot where one of the three witches who were burned in the reign of King Duffus, for witching the King, is interred. When the adjacent house of Bronte Place was being erected, the workmen broke this stone and had part of it built into the wall ; but when the town’s people discovered the depredation, they, being attached to a relic of bygone times, immediately caused it to be replaced and clasped with iron, in which state it is still seen. The other two stones have long since disappeared.

At the old Toll-Bar, where the road branching off to the left leads towards Sea Park, Kinloss, Findhorn, and Burghead, an interesting relic lies unprotected and apparently uncared for—no other than the Socket of the Little Cross of Forres ! The Cross stood near the spot where the stone now lies.

Rosefield House, the property of Mr William Sime, is a handsome two-storey house, facing the town, and has a bay window on each side of the entrance, and a neat grass-plot and flower-bed in front. Behind the house is an extensive range of nursery ground and forcing-houses.

A short distance down the Burghead road is *Moray Park*, tenanted by Alexander Urquhart, Esq. It is a large two-storey edifice, with bay windows rising the height of both storeys. The grounds around are tastefully laid out, particularly with roses, and adorned with borders of flowers and shrubs.

Sweno's Stone.—Sweno's Stone stands in a field on the opposite side of the Burghead road from Moray Park. There are four runic obelisks in the county of Moray—one in the Cathedral grounds at Elgin; another at Altyre; a third in the grounds at Brodie Castle; and Sweno's Stone at Forres. The latter is the largest and most interesting of the four, if, indeed, it be not the most curious and stately monument of its kind in Britain. It is generally supposed to commemorate the victory obtained by the Danish army over Malcolm II. in 1008, in which that King was wounded and carried off the field. The fact that about the year 1812 several human skeletons were dug up within a few yards of it, seems to corroborate this view of

its marking a battle field.* The stone steps around the base were placed there to support the pillar, at the expense of Lady Margaret Stewart, daughter of the

* The pillar is a hard grey sandstone, twenty-three feet above the ground, and said to be twelve feet more under it. The breadth at the base is four feet; thickness about fifteen inches. On the south side are five divisions, each filled up by numerous figures cut in relief. The first division represents a number of persons as if engaged in deep council, and holding conversations in groups, the back ground, probably, representing the walls of some hall or fortification. The second division exhibits an army of horse and foot on the march, the cavalry being in the van and at full gallop, the infantry following with spears in their hands and shields. In the third division are appearances of a battle, both single combats and general fighting. In one corner are several decapitated bodies lying piled one on the other, while at the top of this division troops are seen entering the gate of a city, or it may be besieging it. The fourth division shows a number of captives bound together, some naked and apparently females, others clothed in surcoats, while a row of warriors above, with unsheathed swords, are shouting victory. The last division is very obscure, but it gives indications of horsemen either returning as conquerors from the battle, or retreating as beaten fugitives. The other or north side of the stone, has only three divisions. Below are two figures, with human heads, though their bodies are of rather grotesque forms, typical, perhaps, of priests, bending over something as if in an attitude of prayer, while a smaller human figure stands behind each. All these figures have a broad cap on their heads, while the warriors on the other side are all bare headed. In the division above is a long cross, the arms of which are within a circle. This part is much worn, but comparing it with the more distinct figure on other stones of like character, the resemblance to a cross is very evident. The cross and the entire space of the middle division are filled up by most ingenious carving, representing the intricate and endless convolutions of the Runic knot. The edges of the stone are also occupied by these runic knots, and although too minute to be represented in an engraving, are on the stone most distinct, and evidently show the elaborate art of the sculptors. At the base of one of the edges of the stone are several figures, apparently females.

Earl of Moray. To prevent dilapidation, the whole is surrounded by a high wooden rustic paling, and the key is kept at the old Toll-house, where it may be had at a fee of 6d for each party of visitors. The *Hang-man's Well* is still to be seen, near the Toll-house, and it yields excellent water from a spring, supplying all the people in the immediate vicinity with this necessary of life.

Drumduan House.—Retracing our steps to the Little Cross, and then proceeding eastward along the old turnpike road leading towards Grangehall, Burgie, Alves, and Elgin, we arrive at the entrance gate of Drumduan House, the residence and property of Mrs Smyth. Behind the porter-lodge is the garden, nearly two acres in extent, with a high fruit wall on the east, a neat pond at the south, and a cool peach-house at the north end. A broad walk winding up a gentle acclivity leads to the front of the mansion-house, which was built by Colonel Simon Fraser, and purchased from his trustees by Mr Thurburn, who sold it to Mr Smyth, to whose widow it now belongs. Drumduan House is pleasantly situated on the top of a round knoll, surrounded with clumps of hardwood trees and evergreen shrubberies. A flower-plot occupies the front, and on the west is a well laid-out flower garden. At this corner is a small conservatory, which communicates with the dining-room—the drawing-room being on the north side, the windows of which command a magnificent panorama of the Moray Frith and Findhorn bay. The house is in the cottage style, with a sunk storey, and from its square, compact form, affords ample accommodation for a large family.

Another porter-lodge stands at the western entrance, which breaks off from the Forres road at the base of the Cluny Hills. The property is bounded by this road at the west, till it joins the highway between Elgin and Forres.*

* Drumduan hill was the common place of execution for criminals, where malefactors were hung and witches were burned. The last unfortunate witch who suffered on its summit was Dorothy Calder, a circumstantial account of whose execution was originally given in the *Forres Gazette*. Dorothy, it appears, lived on the bank of the Findhorn near the Suspension Bridge, and was accused of having, in connivance with Satan, procured for the fishermen the largest "shot" of salmon ever taken in the Findhorn; and for having on another occasion inveigled the devil to disclose where the lady of Burdsyards had lost her gold ring. For these services poor Dorothy was deemed worthy of a witch's death. A stake was erected at the place of execution, to which she was fastened with an iron chain. "Fifteen cart-loads of peats were then built round about her, a few feet from the stake, the inner space being filled with dry whins. The pile was set on fire, and the shouts of the superstitious throng assembled on the occasion drowned the piercing cry of 'mercy, mercy!' uttered in vain by the supplicating victim, who in a few minutes ceased to exist." The Witches Stane, *par excellence*, (already described at Bronte Place—see p. 268), marks the exact spot where one of three unfortunate creatures was burned and buried, of whose execution and crime—that of plotting the life of King Duffus—tradition gives a rather romantic account. The King's nearest kinsman resided at Darnaway Castle, and being desirous of acquiring the Crown, took steps to accomplish the King's death. The services of three noted Forres witches were secured, who made a wax effigy of their sovereign and hung it before a fire in one of their dwellings, and by means of the heat and their fiendish incantations, the figure slowly melted away, and with it wasted the King, who sickened, withered, and almost died. He was then residing at Sccone Palace, and his physicians being unable to arrest the disease, came to the sage conclusion that he had been bewitched while in the North. The King sent a commission to Forres, and the Governor of the Castle was instructed to find out the abode of any of the unholy sisterhood in that vicinity. One of the guards, on being applied to, confessed that his sweetheart's

The Cluny Hills.—Few towns in the kingdom, and certainly not one of its size, possess such extensive pleasure-grounds for the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants, as Forres does with its Cluny Hills. Sixty years ago these hills were covered with whins and heather ; now they present one unbroken plantation, rising here, descending there, with the inequalities of the ground. Serpentine walks, apparently innumerable, wind round every acclivity, and there are seats on which the traveller can rest himself and view the distant landscape ; altogether there cannot be less than five miles of walks around these hills, the greater part being agreeably shaded with trees. There are three distinct hills. The summit of the highest is crowned by a monument to Admiral Lord Nelson ;

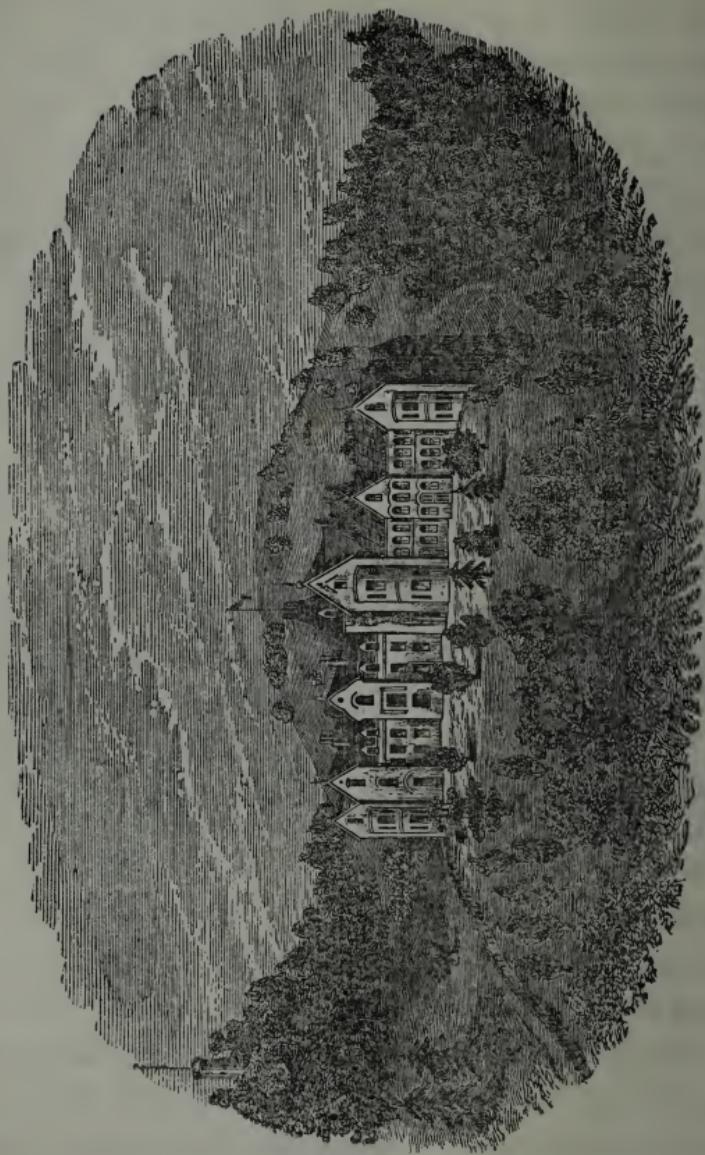
mother had some connection with the uncanny daughters of Eve, whereupon a party of soldiers was selected to surprise the witches and frustrate their ends. At midnight the door was burst open, the soldiers marched in, and found the king suspended from a rude roasting-jack of primitive construction, turning slowly round before the fire, the wax dripping from his body, and the three crones busy with their incantations around him ! Speedy retribution followed. The witches were tried, condemned, and taken to the top of Cluny Hill near where Nelson's Monument now stands ; each was placed in a barrel, which was sent rolling down the hill, followed by the excited multitude, who burned and buried the barrels and their human contents where they stopped at the foot of the hill, over which three large boulders were then placed to mark the spot ! Two of these stones yet remain—the one above noticed, clasped with iron, and another on the opposite side of the road within the fence—the third was broken up and removed by a pensioner nearly a century ago, but he soon thereafter fell from a slater's scaffold in Edinburgh, where he was employed as a labourer, and broke his neck. King Duffus recovered his health, but only to meet death in a different shape at the hands of the remorseless Governor Donald, who had saved him from the witches.

on the centre one is a long wooden platform, with flag-staff and vane, called the Dean's Seat ; while on the slope of the most southerly one stands the Hydro-pathic Establishment.

Nelson's Monument.—Nelson's Monument, erected in 1806 by public subscription, in commemoration of Lord Nelson and his victories, is a massive octagonal tower, twenty-four feet in diameter and seventy feet in height, in the castellated style, three storeys high, and completed by a battlement with flag-staff, in the form of mast, jury mast, and appropriate ropes. Immediately beneath the battlement a sculptured imitation cannon projects on each angle of the octagon. Round the outside on panels are inscribed—"In memory of Admiral Lord Nelson," "Nile, 1st August, 1798," "Copenhagen, 2d April, 1801," "Trafalgar, 21st August, 1805." On the ground floor are two small cannons, which are brought out and used on occasion of demonstration. A spiral granite stair leads to the top. On each floor or storey is a fine open room, with windows on seven sides of the octagon, the other side being occupied by the stair. These rooms are all quite empty, except the first one, which contains in a closed-up recess a bust of Nelson in Carrara marble. This recess is painted oak colour, and surrounded with a cornice of imitation cannon balls, graduated in size from the floor upwards ; over the top are three miniature cannons, two flags, and two anchors. On reaching the top of the tower and looking around, the mind is for a time bewildered by the beautiful panorama which bursts on the view—portions of seven counties being distinctly visible. Looking westward, the view embraces richly-

wooded and fertile plains, with Darnaway Castle rising over the ancient forest, and the river Findhorn like a silver thread seaming the rich green carse, until it loses itself in the waters of the estuary; undulating hills to the south; a large open country to the east; the blue waters of the ocean flowing up on the north, bounded by the distant Sutherland and Ross-shire hills;—all forming a combination of rich and varied scenery which few situations can rival. There is a powerful telescope kept in one of the rooms for the use of visitors. The keeper of the tower charges sixpence for admission of each party.

The Cemetery, enclosed by a low stone wall, and occupying the western slope of the Cluny Hills, was opened about twenty-five years ago. It is completely concealed from view by the surrounding trees until the winding approach leads the visitor to the entrance. The soil is light dry sand, laid out in steep terraces. There is a considerable number of very handsome sculptured monuments along the enclosing walls, and also throughout the grounds.



CLUNYHILL HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT.

CLUNYHILL HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT.

This well-known and popular establishment stands on the southern slope of one of the beautiful eminences in the immediate vicinity of the town. Its site is admirable, being moderately elevated on light, porous ground, and therefore dry, with a warm, sunny exposure, commanding an extensive view of varied and beautiful scenery. The building, although plain, is well proportioned, and has an elegant appearance. The rooms are large and airy—the dining-room being a magnificent apartment, capable of dining about eighty persons ; and adjoining is a reading and writing room, about forty feet long, by eighteen wide. On the second floor is the drawing-room, of the same dimensions with dining-room beneath ; it is luxuriantly furnished with every convenience. A plate-glass door on the east side opens into the ante-drawingroom, which is forty-two feet long by eighteen wide, with an entire glass front. The view from these apartments is hardly to be equalled by any in the vicinity, and must be a charming one for the inmates. The western elevation contains the resident physician's rooms and several handsome parlours and bed-rooms. A long corridor on each floor, with bed-rooms on either hand, leads to the centre section. All the rooms are handsomely and comfortably furnished, and well ventilated. The baths, an important part of this establishment, are placed on the eastern section, those for gentlemen on the ground floor, and those for ladies immediately above. They consist of Turkish baths, plunge, shower,

spray, rain, wave, douche, hose, &c.—hot or cold as required. The grounds around are tastefully laid out, comprehending a large croquet green, bowling green, terraces, &c. On the north side stands a handsome bowling or skittle alley and gymnasium, sixty-six feet long by eighteen wide, with a verandah in front. About forty yards to the east of this, with the terraces, walks, and flower-beds in front, is a fine greenhouse. This large establishment is under the superintendence of a resident physician, house-steward, lady-superintendent, and a staff of efficient servants.

In returning to the town from the Hydropathic Establishment, the first house of importance is the property of Mr Peat, solicitor, and presently occupied by Mrs Torin, sister of C. E. Fraser-Tytler, Esq. of Sanquhar. It is a beautiful villa, in the old Scottish style—the pointed gables, steep roofs, and square tower forming an excellent contrast to the dark-green hill behind. On the south end of the house is a handsome conservatory, the front and roof being one continuous slope of glass. The terrace in front is ornamented with an artistically-arranged rustic oak paling; while a flight of steps leads to the garden on a lower level.

Randolph Villa, situated somewhat nearer the town, at the north-western entrance to the Cluny Hills, next claims attention. It is the property of Alexander MacKenzie, Esq., solicitor, was erected in 1866, in the old Scottish style, and is tenanted by the Misses Grant of Elchies. It is decorated with turrets, crow-stepped gables, round towers, &c. The flight of steps leading

to the entrance is well set off with a rustic oak rail. There is also a beautiful parterre in front.

From this point the Bulletloan and Tolbooth Street lead back to the centre of the town. The latter has been already described from the High Street. In the former are a number of excellent two-storey residences, with flower borders in front and gardens behind, one of the more conspicuous of which is Elm Cottage, tenanted by Mrs Gordon.

Hotels.—FRASER'S HOTEL—176 High Street.

TAYLOR'S RAILWAY STATION HOTEL—Station Road.

THE STATION HOTEL—Do.

BELL'S INN—North Street.

MURDOCH'S LIVERY STABLES—177 High Street.

V I L L A G E S.

FINDHORN.

THE village of Findhorn, in the parish of Kinloss, is one of the oldest seaports on the shores of the Moray Frith, and was long the principal trading port at which the neighbouring lairds—Sir James Calder of Muirton, Baronet, Charles Brodie of Lethen, Dunbar of Kincorth, &c., &c.,—exported their grain to Holland and Flanders, and imported wines and other foreign merchandise. The village of Findhorn, so far as we can trace, appears to have been always connected with, and to have formed a part of the Barony of Muirton. The estate of Muirton was undoubtedly church lands, and belonged to the Abbey of Kinloss, and about the period of the Reformation came into possession of John Robertson, son of Alexander Robertson, fifth Baron of Strowan—his oldest son, Gilbert Robertson, having married Janet Reid, sister of the famous Robert Reid, Abbot of Kinloss and Bishop of Orkney. By that connection the estate was no doubt acquired. The Robertsons kept possession about a century,* until the year 1656,

* Principal Robertson of Edinburgh, the great historian, was a descendant of the family of Robertson of Muirton.

when the estate was acquired by Sir Robert Innes of Innes, who sold it shortly after to Sir James Calder, son of Thomas Calder of Sheriffmill. Sir James, who was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1668, left the estate so encumbered that his son, Sir Thomas, after a vain endeavour to pay off the debt, was eventually compelled to dispone the property to his brother-in-law, Rose of Kilravock, who in 1766 sold it to Sir Hector Munro of Novar, whose grandson and heir of entail, Col. Robert Munro Ferguson, is now proprietor of the estate of Muirton and Findhorn.* The village stands on the right side of the mouth of the river bearing the same name;† the houses are cottage tenements, and the population is about 900. Findhorn was made a burgh of barony, and the erection ratified by Parliament in 1661; in 1778 an act of Parliament was

* Captain Dunbar Dunbar, having inspected the old rentals, &c., informs us that the value of the Muirton estate in the year 1705 was £3822 6d sterling; in 1740 it had increased to £6446 4s 3d; in 1766 Sir Hector Munro purchased the property for £14,000; and in 1860 it was worth, at thirty years' purchase, £76,187 15s. The relative value of money was, however, much greater in former days.

† The village has changed its site more than once. The entrance of the river Findhorn into the sea, which was formerly two miles to the westward of its present situation, was shifted, and the ancient site of the village swallowed up, by the drifting sands of Culbin between the years 1670 and 1690. The village had subsequently been built a mile to the north-west of the present one, but it was swallowed up in one tide by an inundation of the sea in 1701, and the place where it stood is now the bottom of the sea. This calamity was anticipated by the inhabitants, who fled from their dwellings and saved their lives. Findhorn was long celebrated for curing and drying haddocks in a peculiar way; they were universally known as "Findren speldings."

passed for the construction of a harbour, fixing the dues, and enacting laws for the regulation of the shipping. About thirty years ago, additional harbour accommodation was provided at a cost of £1300, consisting of two quays with a breastwork joined to the old pier. Except for the intricacy of the entrance across a bar of shifting sand, the harbour is one of the safest on the coast, the depth of water at the shallowest part of the channel being from $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet at neap-tides to 17 feet at spring tides, while in the river channel the largest vessels which enter lie afloat at low water with perfect safety. The shore-dues and salmon fishing at the mouth of the river are in the hands of the superior of the village. The principal articles of export and import are timber, grain, coals, bones, and manures. A considerable trade in shipbuilding has been carried on for a number of years. There are about eighteen boats' crews annually prosecuting the herring fishing; besides which a number of hands are employed at the deep-sea and salmon fishing—the plant employed in these industries being computed at about £16,000. In 1860, the harbour was connected with the through system of railway by the formation of the Findhorn railway from the Kinloss station of the Highland line. There is a substantial Free Church, a public school, a library, and two inns in the village; and fairs for cattle, horses, and sheep are held in March, July, and October.

BURGHEAD.*

The village or Burgh of Barony of Burghead is situated in the parish of Duffus, about five miles east of Findhorn, nine miles north-west of Elgin, and about the same distance north-east of Forres. It is built on the south-western slope of a remarkable promontory of land, rising by gradual ascent from the sandy plain to a rocky sandstone precipice sixty feet in height, and surrounded on three sides by the sea. The population is between 1200 and 1500, and the trade of the burgh is considerable. The town is laid out on a regular plan, the streets are of ample width, and the houses substantially built of freestone, of which there is an unlimited supply in the immediate neighbourhood. The village is much frequented in summer as a watering place, and it allures visitors not only by the general pleasantness of the situation, but by commodious and comfortable lodging-houses, and healthy and agreeable sea walks. Burghead is of great antiquity, and is generally believed to be the Ptoroton of Ptolemy; †

* Abridged from MS. notes on Burghead by Robert Young, Esq., who kindly placed them at our disposal for this purpose.

† The most of the remains of antiquity have been swept away by the levelling process to which the ground was subjected in the beginning of the present century, when the town was remodelled and laid out in streets. The old ramparts have been almost entirely removed, except a few remnants, which still convey some notion of what the earth-works must have been. It is fortunate that so accurate sketches of them have been preserved. During the time of levelling the ground, it is stated that many valuable articles of antiquity were found, such as coins, battle-axes, swords, and other articles, but they have almost entirely disappeared. The only articles of importance now remaining are an ancient jug, in the possession of Mr

Richard of Cirencester refers to it as being once a Roman station and the chief city of the province ; and General Roy, a most competent judge of Roman work, came to the same conclusion. The period of Roman occupation

Macleod of Dalvey, and four very curious bulls carved in stone, and remarkably well executed. One of these is in the British Museum, another in the possession of Mr George Anderson of Inverness, a third belongs to Mr Miln of Milnfield, Elgin, and the fourth, recently found, is in the harbour office at Burghead. Various carved stones of Caledonian and mediæval dates have been found amongst the ruins of the fort, of an interesting kind, which have been carefully preserved by the proprietor. Of these notices have been given by Mr Stuart in his late splendid work, "The Sculptured Stones of Scotland," vol. 2, page 62, plate 108. In ancient times there was a chapel at Burghead where the burying-ground now stands. From tradition it would seem to have existed at a very early date. Perhaps some ecclesiastical building was erected here in the eleventh century, although there is no historical record of it. The ruins of the chapel were in existence until the latter part of last century, when, with barbarous taste, the venerable remains were carried away to build a mill in the neighbourhood—the dressed stones being no doubt a temptation not to be resisted. But the greatest curiosity here is the well called the Roman Well. Whether it be Roman work or not, may be a matter of controversy, but it has a most wonderful resemblance to it. This well stands on the north-east side of the town, very near the sea, and must have been embraced within the fortifications, and in the strongest part of them. It is a work which seems to have been very carefully and regularly executed, and shows considerable skill in engineering, and has no appearance of having been formed by a rude and uncultivated people. It is not probable that a barbarous people would have ever thought of trying to find a well in such a place. The work is unique, and we are not aware that anything of the kind exists in Scotland, or even in Britain. This well had long lain buried under the rubbish of ages, and its existence totally forgotten. In the year 1809, when the proprietors were laying off the town into streets, a desire was expressed to have a well in some convenient spot, and an old fisherman related a tradition regarding the existence of a well there, and accordingly the ground was dug, and after removing quan-

was perhaps not long, and when they departed the fortifications left by them were occupied by the Caledonians, who were undoubtedly of the Pictish nation. The Danes or Norwegians had a settlement here as early as 850, which they carefully fortified by adding to the Roman works. They are said to have dug a ditch or foss round the south end of the promontory, which being filled with water from the sea, rendered the fort an island. After the Danes left Scotland about 1012, it was no doubt taken possession of by the native population, but we hear nothing of Burghead for more than a century thereafter, when we find it in the possession

ties of rubbish, a stair appeared, excavated from the solid rock, which being pursued, the well or bath was found in a complete state, as originally formed. When found, it made considerable excitement in the country at the time, and having then been submitted to the examination of competent persons, and comparing it with other works of undoubted Roman origin, they, without hesitation, pronounced it Roman work, and for many years it was considered a decided point. It was reserved to the present period to throw doubts upon this, although no apparent reason has been given for it.* The proprietors of Burghead have successively been most desirous to keep this interesting piece of antiquity in a cleanly and orderly state. The late Mr Young arched it over with a lofty Roman arch, and put a door on it, with a pump to raise the water. The pump was repeatedly broken, and then the door was forced open to get at the water. The present proprietor put up an iron fence to keep parties from going round the well, and to prevent filth from accumulating. Notwithstanding all efforts, from the untidy habits of the fishing population, the place is often in a disgusting state, and not fit for the inspection of strangers—a fact much to be regretted.

* Mr James Macdonald, now rector of the Ayr Academy, has written a most interesting essay on Burghead, on which he bestowed the labour of years. It is published with illustrations among the transactions of the Society of Antiquaries; and although we may differ from some of his conclusions, we highly recommend its perusal to our readers.

of the great house of De Moravia,* after which it

* This powerful family seems to have started into public notice all of a sudden. Whether they were a native race, or a part of the stream of Norman or Flemish population who poured into Scotland from the time of Malcolm Canmore, is altogether unknown ; but certainly they have held their grasp in Scotland better than any other family. After the lapse of seven centuries and a-half, they are represented by the Dukes of Sutherland and Athole, and all the numerous family of the name of Murray, as well as by the great race of Douglas in the female line. The estate of Duffus continued in the male line of De Moravia for five generations—viz., 1st, Freskinus ; 2^d, William ; 3^d, Hugh ; 4th, Walter ; 5th, Freskinus. The last Freskinus died about the year 1285, leaving two daughters—Helen, married in 1268 to Reginald De Cheyne ; and Christian, married to William De Fedderet (eldest son and heir of Magnus de Fedderet), both Aberdeenshire proprietors and great barons of Scotland. The estates of Duffus and Burghead, with the possessions in Sutherland and Caithness, were divided in the following proportions, viz. :—Two thirds to Reginald De Cheyne and Helen De Moravia, and one third to William De Fedderet and Christian De Moravia. Reginald De Cheyne died prior to the 6th of November, 1313. Of William De Fedderet, we know little. In 1294 he and his wife granted to Archibald, Bishop of Moray, a gift of the patronage of St Peter's Church at Duffus. Reginald De Cheyne left a son, also called Reginald,—a brave and gallant man, who stood fast by his country. The latter years of his life were passed in the almost inaccessible Castle of Dilret, on the water of Thurso. He died in the year 1350, leaving two daughters—Mary, married to Nicholas Sutherland (second son of Kenneth, Earl of Sutherland), and Mariot, married first to Sir John Douglas, by whom she had no issue, and second to John Keith, son of Edward Keith, Marischal of Scotland. The third part of Duffus and Burghead, which belonged to William De Fedderet and his wife, fell to the Crown—whether by the failure of issue or by forfeiture, is not known. From thenceforth it was called, down to our own times, the King's third of Duffus and Burghead. Thus was the estate of Duffus divided into three parts or thirds—viz., the King's third, Duffus' third, and Marischal's third. After some interval, a family arrangement was made by which Marischal conveyed his third of Duffus to the Sutherlands, and in exchange he received lands from them in Caithness ;

passed through many hands. In 1805 we find it in the possession of a number of gentlemen associated together for the purpose of converting it into the principal port of the county. It was then, as it had been for cen-

thus two-thirds of Duffus and Burghead fell to the Sutherlands, and continued in their family from the fourteenth century till the year 1705, when, being in a decayed state, Lord Duffus sold the whole to Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, great-great-grandfather to the present Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield. The King's third of Duffus and Burghead has more frequently changed hands. After the forfeiture or extinction of the family of Fedderet, it probably remained some time in the hands of the Crown. On the 14th August, 1472, James III. conveyed it by charter to James Douglas of Pittendrich, an ancient branch of the great house of Douglas, who either came to the North with Bricius, Bishop of Moray, in the 13th century, or with Douglas, Earl of Moray, in the 15th. In 1603, Archibald Douglas of Pittendrich sold his part to Alexander Keith, Rector of Duffus, from whose descendants it passed, about 1638, to Sir Robert Gordon, the first baronet of Gordonstown, who had then recently purchased the lands of Ogstown and Plewlands. In the year 1672, Sir Ludovick Gordon, the second baronet of Gordonstown, with consent of Robert Gordon, his eldest son, sold and disposed to Robert Sutherland in Burghsea the lands of Easter Inchkeil, called the King's third of Inchkeil. The lands of Wester Inchkeil, "and in like manner the lands houses, larochs, and yards bigged and to be bigged, and the harbour and seaport pertaining to them of the town and seaport of Burghead, commonly called the King's third of Burghead." From Robert Sutherland the property passed to his son, William Sutherland of Rosehaugh, and from him to Elspeth Sutherland, his daughter, wife of George Kay, in Drainie, and thereafter to Lewis Kay, their son. The late Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield having succeeded to the other two-thirds of Burghead, as heir of his great grandfather, Archibald Dunbar of Thunderton, also acquired the King's third of Burghead from Lewis Kay, by disposition dated 12th November, 1795. The property of Burghead was thus again re-united, after an interval of upwards of 500 years; and Sir Archibald Dunbar became sole proprietor, and on the 5th July, 1799, obtained a Crown charter in his own person over the whole.

turies before, a collection of a few fishermen's huts jumbled together without any order.* About this time the proprietors swept away the old village and built a new one on the plan still adhered to. At the same time

* Sir Archibald Dunbar, the then proprietor, readily entered into this enterprise, and an agreement was made by him with Alexander, Duke of Gordon, Colonel Francis William Grant of Grant, afterwards Earl of Seafield, John Brander of Pitgaveny, Joseph King of Newmill, George Forteath of Newton, William Young of Inverugie, and Thomas Sellar of Westfield, he himself taking a share with them, whereby, in consideration of a certain price, he agreed to dispone to these eight parties the town and harbour of Burghead and its pertinents. The new proprietors entered on a difficult undertaking—to sweep away an old village, build a new one, and erect a harbour suitable for the wants of the country ;—but they embarked in it very zealously. They got a plan of the projected village, swept away the old houses almost entirely, and laid off the place in regular streets ; the best buildings being intended to be nearest the harbour, for which the highest feu-duties were to be charged, and the streets, as they extended eastward, being to be charged at a smaller rate ; the east side being intended for the fishermen. In the course of a few years many good houses were erected, and the streets gradually filled up. The projected new harbour was commenced about the year 1807, and no expense spared to make it commodious and useful, according to the requirements of the time. A contractor was got from Aberdeenshire, who carried on the work actively and ably, and it was entirely finished by the year 1810. It was most substantially built, and has, with very little repair, resisted the sea and weather for nearly sixty years. The projectors committed a great mistake—that they did not get an Act of Parliament for enabling them to levy shore-dues, and to regulate the harbour before they commenced to build. The want of this hampered them much in their future proceedings, as in virtue of their Crown charter of port and harbour, they could only charge dues on shipping and goods to a very moderate extent, and it was never so remunerating to them as it otherwise might have been. These proprietors continued to possess Burghead until the year 1819, when three of them —viz., Mr King, Mr Forteath, and Mr Sellar—having died, and their heirs not desiring to continue the speculation, it was resolved to sell

they formed a commodious and useful harbour, suitable for the requirements of the time. This harbour was further extended and improved in the years 1832 and 1835, and more particularly in 1858, when Mr Young, the present proprietor, procured an act of Parliament, by which the harbour was deepened and improved and a new jetty built, whereby the accommodation for

the village and harbour, which was purchased by Mr William Young, one of their number, who determined to complete the improvements at his own risk. Mr Young accordingly obtained a conveyance from the other seven proprietors, entered into possession, and with all the vigour and activity of his very energetic mind, proceeded to the further improvement of the place. The herring fishing was then only in its infancy, but he saw at once that it ought to be fostered and encouraged, and he proceeded to lay off a large range of fishing stations, salt cellars, and other accommodation. These were finished at great expense, and for convenience and arrangement no better curing stations have ever been erected at any port. The town and harbour continued to prosper under the care of its spirited and enlightened proprietor, who died in the year 1842, at an advanced period of life, much and justly regretted as a benefactor to the north of Scotland, and who had done more for this part of the country than any person of his day and generation. Of the life and labours of the late Mr Young of Burghead, this is not perhaps the place to speak; but when we consider that for a period of upwards of half a century he was the foremost man of progress in the north of Scotland—that he devoted himself to the improvement of the country;—and when we see the marks he left, not only in Morayshire, but also in other northern counties, particularly in the county of Sutherland—the extensive correspondence he carried on till the close of his long life with most men of standing in the North—his hospitality and open-handedness—his kindness to strangers—his desire to promote the interests of young men, and to advance them in the world;—his name and memory well deserve a passing remark and memorial, and to remain enshrined in the recollection of all acquainted with his character and worth. He was succeeded by his nephew, William Young, Esq., who is now proprietor of the town and harbour.

shipping was greatly increased. In 1861 a line of railway was formed from the Alves station of the Highland Railway, which has proved a great convenience to the inhabitants, and renders access to it easy from all parts of the country.

The exports and imports are considerable, and consist generally of grain, potatoes, timber, manures, coals, &c. The principal trade of the port, however, is in connection with the herring and white fishing. The average number of boats engaged at the latter for the last three years is 23 ; average yearly catch of white fish, 400 tons, worth £3200. The average number of herring boats is 100 ; average catch of herrings, 10,300 barrels. The value of fish caught at this port alone exceeds the total land rent of the parish of Duffus—showing what wealth comes out of the sea. There is also a salmon fishery on each side of the town, which yields a considerable yearly revenue. There are three churches in Burghead—viz., Established Church, Free Church, United Presbyterian Church.* The Caledonian Banking Company opened

* *United Presbyterian Church.*—Until a period within the recollection of many yet living, Burghead had no place of worship, and the inhabitants were destitute of all the advantages of regular church-going. The Dissenters did something for the neglected place, and we must particularly mention with honour the names of those eminent ministers—the late Rev. Thomas Stark of Forres and the Rev. David Crawford of Elgin, both members of the Associate Presbytery of Elgin, who occasionally preached themselves, and induced others of their brethren also to do so. In 1821, an application to the late Mr Young was given in by many of the inhabitants for a site to erect a church upon, in connection with the Associate Synod, which Mr Young with his usual liberality granted at once, and also gave them a donation of twenty pounds, to show his good-will to the cause. The

a branch bank in the village in 1867, which will be a great accommodation to the fishcurers, shopkeepers,

original site was most inconveniently chosen, and in the year 1860 the church was abandoned, and a handsome new one with a spire erected near the entrance of the village, which is a great ornament to the place.

Established Church.—The Presbytery of the Established Church being naturally wishful to support their own influence in Burghead, and hearing of the progress of the Dissenters, had the matter of erecting a church there brought under their notice on the 7th of April, 1821. On the 28th November, 1822, the Rev. John Gordon, minister of the parish of Duffus, reported to the Presbytery that a place of worship had been erected in connection with the Establishment, and that Mr David Simpson had been elected minister, and had commenced his labour on the 3d of the same month. He was afterwards ordained in Elgin on the 2d of July, 1823. In the year 1826 the Rev. David Waters was chosen successor to Mr Simpson, who was translated to the Trinity Church, Aberdeen. In Mr Waters' time a very comfortable manse was erected, and a large garden laid out and enclosed with a stone wall. In the year 1867 Burghead was erected by the Court of Teinds into a *quoad sacra* parish, the portion of the parish of Duffus to the west of the village of Hopeman being attached to it. The cost of endowment was £2887 sterling, of which sum the Church Endowment Committee have contributed £2150, and the Rev. Dr Alexander Brander, minister of the parish, the very handsome sum of £400—Mr Young, the proprietor of Burghead, also giving a liberal donation. The manse has also been much improved, having had another storey added to it, and made suitable for the residence of a parish minister.

Free Church.—In 1843 the Rev. David Waters joined the Free Church of Scotland, and a large church and a school, with a commodious manse, were erected, the proprietor having with his wonted liberality given a site gratis; and it may here be remarked that all the churches and manses in Burghead pay only a nominal feu-duty of one shilling per annum, which is probably equal nearly to a donation of twenty pounds per annum from the proprietor to their funds, an example so commendable and so free of sectarian feeling which has been unfortunately followed by few other proprietors. Mr Waters has kept together a large congregation for upwards of forty years, and has had a long and useful ministry.

and traders connected with the port. In 1864 Messrs Ross, Hutton, & Co., feued a piece of ground on the west side of the railway line, immediately within the Burghead march, and erected a large manure manufactory, which affords work for a considerable number of the inhabitants, besides giving the place the appearance of bustle and traffic seldom seen at a quiet fishing village.*

St Ethans.—The estate of Roseisle, belonging to Major Cumming Bruce, M.P., joins Mr Young's property on the south side of the village, where a piece of land along the beach and near the Railway Station has been set apart for feuing in lots of half-an-acre each, at the rate of £5 per acre. The first house was built on it by Mr Sutherland, merchant, in 1861.

* A notice of Burghead would be incomplete without a brief sketch of a curious remnant of Pagan superstition which exists here, and is not to be found in any other part of the country—viz., the Burning of the Clavie. This consists of filling a barrel with chips of wood and tar, with other combustibles, on the last day of the year, old style; carrying it on men's shoulders from one end of the village to the other; then placing the barrel on an eminence called the Durie, where it is allowed to burn for a certain time, when the burning embers are scattered, and eagerly gathered by the persons present and carried home. It is supposed that in the successful carrying out of this fire the prosperity of the village for the subsequent year depends. The superstition, however, is rapidly wearing out. Formerly the fire-barrel used to be carried round the boats and ships in the harbour, that a blessing might rest on them also; but this part of the ceremony is now given up.

HOPEMAN.

THE village of Hopeman lies in the parish of Duffus, six and a-half miles north-west from Elgin, and rather more than two miles east of Burghead. This village owes its origin to the enterprise of the late William Young of Burghead, who acquired the estate of Inverugie, on which it stands, in 1803, and built the first house in 1805. In 1817 he sold the estate to William Stuart, Esq., whose heirs disposed of the Hopeman portion about 1837 to the late Admiral Duff of Drummuir. At that time there was only one slated house in the village, and the harbour was little better than a natural creek. Liberal encouragement was given by Admiral Duff for feuing and building, and an excellent small harbour was erected suitable for the trade of the place. Admiral Duff, who died in 1858, left Hopeman to Thomas Duff Gordon Duff, a minor, son of Mr Duff, now of Drummuir, who in 1865 erected a new and more commodious harbour. The export and import trade of the place is very limited—the principal industry being the herring and white fisheries. The former has been very productive at this station, Hopeman for several years having had the highest average catch of the Moray Firth fishing stations. The largest building in the village is a four-storey erection, fitted up in 1851 as steam flour and meal mills; but that speculation having proved a failure, the property was sold in 1867 to Mr Christie, who intended removing the machinery and converting the building into dwelling-houses.

The Free Church, opened on the first Sunday of June,

1854, is very conveniently situated, and is the only place of worship in the village. A few years after the church was built, a neat manse was erected for the minister, at no great distance from the church. There are two schools in the village—one under the charge of the Free Church congregation, the other that of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland ; to both of which industrial departments are attached. Connected with the village is a branch of the National Security Savings Bank, a Temperance Society, and a Post-office, where a runner from Elgin calls daily. Half-a-mile east of the village is Hopeman Lodge, and the Braemoo Well (see page 91). A short distance inland, on the estate of Inverugie, is an extensive range of limestone rock, which yields a regular supply of excellent lime.

COVESEA AND ITS CAVES.

COVESEA, situated on the shore about midway between Hopeman and Lossiemouth, consists of a few one-storey thatched houses on a bold rocky headland, and has long been a place of resort as a quiet bathing quarter, and on account of its celebrated caves—the most westerly one being called, *par excellence*, “The Cove,” or “Hell’s Hole,” and is often tenanted by “tinkers” and such-like vagrants ; another was believed to have had its terminus in the workshop of the Wizard of Gordonstown, or in some of the damp dungeons of the old Castle of Duffus. In a cave near the Gow’s Castle, almost at the eastern extremity of the series, and having a regularly built door or entrance, Sir Robert Gordon, son of Sir Robert the Wizard, concealed his horses during the rebellion of 1746, from

which circumstance it is still called Sir Robert's stable. The most beautiful cave is named Dumansdel, into which, by two entrances, the tide rushes out and in at its every flow and ebb. Perhaps the most interesting of the whole is a double-mouthed cave,* but with its entrance high and dry above all states of the tide; although the bay in which it lies, owing to the projecting headlands on either side, cannot be

* In the second volume of "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," published by the Spalding Club in 1867, are sketches of figures on the walls of this cave near its entrance, from the pencil of Lady Dunbar of Northfield, who sent to the Scottish Exhibition a spirited and truthful water-colour sketch of this part of the coast. "Among those symbols," says Dr Stuart, the author of the "Sculptured Stones," "the *crescent* with the *sceptre* was tolerably distinct, and on further investigation there remained no doubt that the carvers of the symbols had left other marks of their labours than these figures. Besides the (nineteen) figures there drawn, there are other markings of an artificial appearance, but so mutilated as hardly to permit their outline being recognised." Another writer on this subject says:—"This discovery, so fortunately made by Lady Dunbar, renders the rocks of Covesea still more attractive to the native and to the tourist. Their whole stretch is picturesque. The flowery bays, the rocky headlands, the isolated stacks, or gow's castles, give variety at every turn, gratifying the eye of ordinary taste, and affording an ample field whence to cull gems for the sketcher's album. To the geologist they have been long a study. Their dark sea-worn recesses, now many of them raised above the reach of ocean's ever-gnawing tooth, tell of a time when this watery but powerful agent toiled at excavating these caverns—a time when the fertile plain of Duffus must have lain many feet under the briny wave. Their reptilian footprints carry the geologist's thoughts back to a far more distant era. He sees them once lying in mountains of finest sand, like the drifted hills of Culbin at the present hour; but, unlike this modern Sahara, the play-ground for the gambols, or flats for the basking, of crocodilian monsters, rivalling in size those that are now seen to people the shallows of the Ganges and the Nile."

reached by the pedestrian but at low water. Between “Hell’s Hole” and Dumansdel cave lies the *Clashach Quarry*—one of the most extensive in the county, employing a considerable number of hands. A great quantity of stones from this quarry is sent in all directions over the country, the greater part being shipped from a loading jetty built by the lessees for their special accommodation.

Eastward from these caves, on a high rocky promontory, is the *Covesea Lighthouse*, erected in 1844 by the Commissioners of Northern Lights. It stands about two miles W.N.W. from Lossiemouth, and commands an extensive stretch of the Moray Frith. The column is about 100 feet high,* with a spiral stair winding round a hollow shaft, where the weight which drives the machinery is suspended. The Covesea Light has been of great value to the mariners frequenting this part of the coast, warning them off a dangerous reef of rocks called the “Skerries,” where several distressing shipwrecks have occurred.

* The column is capped with a large dome, two-thirds of which, facing the sea, is filled with glass—the more easterly panel being red, to warn navigators from coming too far in-shore in Spey bay. In the centre of the dome the lamp is placed, round which the reflectors revolve, the light being seen in its greatest power by the mariner at sea once every minute—the apparatus being octagon, the entire revolution is performed in eight minutes. There are two machines in the Light-room, one for driving the revolving apparatus, and a smaller one of fine clock-work for pumping the oil from a cistern up into the lamp. The reflectors or glass zones are each composed of several circular segments, arranged concentrically round a centre disc. These are of the finest French manufacture, and transmit the light to a great distance.

LOSSIEMOUTH.

LOSSIEMOUTH, in the parish of Drainie, is the largest village in the county of Moray, and as its name indicates, stands at the mouth of the river Lossie, five miles north of Elgin, and nine east from Burghead.* It is

* The harbour was originally built on the left bank of the river; on this harbour the Town of Elgin spent upwards of £1200 prior to 1780, when they built, at a cost of £2000, a breakwater on the east side of the river, which served the double purpose of protection from the east winds, and when the river was in flood of clearing the sand off the bar. The harbour thus formed was for nearly half-a-century ample enough for the trade of the district; but as business increased, it was found insufficient for the additional accommodation required, and this led to the formation of the Stotfield and Lossiemouth Harbour Company in 1834, who resolved to erect a new and more extensive harbour at Stotfield Point. The foundation-stone of this new harbour was laid by Colonel Brander in 1837, the works being completed and opened for the admission of vessels two years afterwards. This harbour was quarried from the solid rock, and the materials excavated were cast out on the north shore, on what is technically called a "spill bank," within the influence of the sea. This mass was immediately acted on by the prevailing in-shore tidal current, was carried to the westward, and disposed so regularly and uniformly in its slopes, and following in a gentle curve the line of the shore, as to be mistaken for an artificial breakwater. This raised beach extends about 600 yards to an elevated rock called the "Pears and Plums;" it is forty feet wide at the base, and from nine to twelve feet high: the landward slope being extremely regular, while the seaward is steeper and more broken. On the connection of the port with Elgin by railway in 1852, the harbour was improved by deepening the basin and extending it towards the Railway Station. The trade of the port now increased rapidly, and about 1860 the directors resolved to farther enlarge the accommodation by extending a basin westward from the entrance, for the special accommodation of the herring boats; this basin cost nearly £18,000, and affords most convenient access to the curing stations, and every facility for the storing and export of herrings. The harbour now yields a revenue of about £1500 yearly; the subscribed capital of the Company is £38,000, with borrowing powers to the extent of £12,000.

the seaport of Elgin, and the principal shipping place for a large district of the county. In 1698 the Town of Elgin feued from Brodie of Brodie, proprietor of the estate of Kineddar, a piece of waste ground near the mouth of the river, for which the yearly feu-duty of £2 1s 8d is still paid. Here they built a harbour and marked off the land into regular sections with streets and cross lanes, having a large square and Market Cross near the centre. The feus were rapidly let to thrifty industrious fishermen, and the village increased in size and importance till the construction of the harbour at Stotfield Point, since which date very few houses have been erected in it. Within the last thirty years a village called *Branderburgh* has sprung up on the northern slope of the Coularthill, in the immediate vicinity of the new harbour. The first house in this village was erected in the year 1830, and formed the marine residence of Colonel Brander of Pitgaveny, the proprietor of the ground. This cottage is now occupied as an inn, and stands near the draw-bridge at the entrance to the herring basin. The second-built house fronts eastward, overlooking the main basin of the harbour, and is also occupied as a public-house. It has an outside stone stair leading to the entrance on the second storey. In the year 1851 the population of Branderburgh had increased to the number of 145; in 1861 it had risen to 952 inhabitants. The population of it and Lossiemouth conjoined now numbers nearly 3000. The village is regularly laid out on a plan sketched by the late Mr George M'William, and consists of a number of streets crossing each other at right angles, with a space in the centre called

the Square. The portion to the west and north of this square, and between it and the sea, is almost entirely devoted to the houses of fishermen. These houses are nearly all two-storey high, with storm or attic windows; and taken altogether in respect of their accommodation, uniformity of style, and cleanly appearance, they are such as are not to be found in any other fishing town on the Moray Frith. That portion of the town lying nearer the harbour and railway station, is mostly confined to the commercial and trading portion of the community, and to those engaged in the shipping interests. Several attempts have been made to secure a supply of fresh water, but no plan has yet been approved of. In 1865 the inhabitants adopted the "Police and Improvement (Scotland) Act," by which they are empowered to levy an assessment for this purpose; and it is to be hoped that at no distant date there will be a plentiful supply of both water and gas in the village. In 1866 a splendidly equipped new life-boat was stationed at Lossiemouth. It is called the "Bristol and Clifton," and was presented to the National Life-boat Institution by the Bristol Histrionic Club. Some of the more wealthy inhabitants of Elgin have villas erected for summer residences on the summit of the Coularthill, from which a fine view of both the Caithness and Banffshire coasts is obtained. Conspicuous amongst these residences is a neat Gothic structure, erected about four years ago by Captain Stewart of Lemurdie. The churches and schools connected with these villages are all in the Old Town (as Lossiemouth proper is called), and at the western end of its principal street is a neat Free Church, seated for about 500; adjoin-

ing the church is the F. C. Manse. Connected with this congregation is a school calculated to contain about 150 scholars. Adjoining the Free Church is the General Assembly School—a large handsome building, consisting of a centre block with two wings and belfry, affording accommodation for upwards of 300 scholars. On the opposite side of the street is a very neat Chapel of Ease, with a small square spire erected about twenty years ago, in connection with the Established Church, and seated for nearly 300 persons. The minister of the parish officiates on Sunday evenings, the Parish Church being about two miles westward. The United Presbyterian Church, situated farther eastward, is the oldest church in the village. It is a very plain, old-fashioned building, seated for about 500 worshipers.

Stotfield is about a mile west from the harbour at Branderburgh, and is principally confined to houses let for bathing quarters in summer. There are some very neat buildings erected within the last few years, but the greater number of the houses consist of one-storey thatched tenements. There is such an extent of beautiful green sward, affording pleasant walks and healthy recreation ground, in and around Stotfield, that the houses command a high rent as summer quarters.*

* More than eighty years ago, £500 were spent in trying for silver and lead in the fluor spar rock of the Coularthill. In the beginning of 1852 an enterprising London firm, who owned similar mines in the Isle of Man, sunk a shaft a short distance east from the village of Stotfield, at a spot generally known as the "Sheepies Siller Rocks." An analysis or assay of the rock produced only the smallest particles of silver, but no less than 75 per cent. of lead of an excellent quality. Operations were carried on with considerable energy for more than two years, but had to be abandoned as no vein worth working was struck. The mouth of the shaft is now covered over with boarding.

GARMOUGH AND KINGSTON.

THE village of Garmouth lies in the parish of Urquhart, although attached *quoad sacra* to the parish of Speymouth. It is nine miles north-east from Elgin, and five north from Fochabers ; its name is said to be derived from two Gaelic words—*Gar* (rough) and *mach* (a mouth).* At the centre of the village, where the

* Garmouth was long in the possession of the Inneses ; and both it and the lands belonging to the Geddeses of Essil were in 1698 disposed to the ancestors of the Earl of Fife. In 1777 an extensive excambion of land was made between the Duke of Gordon and the Earl of Fife, by which his Grace acquired the whole property of the parish of Speymouth. When under the Inneses, the feuars had the right of fishing in the river ; but when the supremacy passed into the hands of the Gordon family, this right was retained for the proprietor. The town of Elgin enjoyed certain rights or privileges over the port of Spey at Garmouth, as well as the ports of Findhorn, Lossiemouth, and Burghead. These privileges seem to have been preserved with great stringency at Spey, as the records of the town of Elgin in 1585 contain several items of expenditure for their “ officiar passing to ye Garmach to arrest ye unfreemen and guidis, and fysching in summer was ane year,” &c. These measures were doubtless annoying to the people, and the laird of Innes, as superior of the village, took steps in 1587 for securing a patent constituting the place into a burgh of barony, with power to create burgesses of its own. This step aroused the indignation of the Elgin Town Council, who next year adopted measures to “ lybell ane reduction of ye liberty of ye burgh of barony granted to ye Garmach,” and shortly after 52s were paid for “ taibling of ye toun’s letters of reduction contrar ye laird of Innes concerning ye Garmach.” Although the services of the laird of Grant were called in to settle the dispute, no record is left of how it terminated, and either this or some other quarrel was pending between the Council and the laird of Innes in 1599. King Charles the Second landed at Garmouth from Holland on the 23d June, 1650. It is generally believed that he signed the Solemn League and Covenant at the house of the laird of Innes, as the document itself bears, but

roads from Elgin and from Fochabers converge, there are several excellent houses with well-trimmed flower gardens. The *Free Church*, erected in 1845 at the south side of the village, is a handsome Gothic structure; the entrance is at the north end, and projects from the body of the church to form a lobby. This projection rises into an octagonal tower, is embellished by an entablature in front with scrolls on either side, and terminated by a burning bush and finial. This is the only church in the village, the Parish Church being three miles distant. The Free Church Manse immediately adjoins the church. There is an excellent school in connection with the Free Church congregation. The other school, where the parish minister preaches every alternate Sunday evening, is under the management of the Society for Propagating Christian

it is asserted that the Presbyterians were so suspicious of the King that they caused him to sign the document before he set foot on Scottish soil. The King was attended by many nobles; among those who came ashore with him were Lord Brodie and Sir Ludovick Gordon of Gordonstown, who had been sent from Morayshire to "move the King to come to Scotland and embrace the Covenant." The boat which took the King from the ship grounded in deep water, and a sturdy boatman, named Milne, waded into the river and carried His Majesty to land, and set him down dry-shod on the boat-green, for which service the boatman was ever afterwards called "King Milne." The King was received by the Knight of Innes and his lady, who conducted him to their house, where he dined. This house, which stood in the garden of Mr James Geddie, was built of clay and round boulders, and according to the Statistical Account, it was razed to the foundation in 1833. In the afternoon the King, attended by his nobles, left Garmouth for the Bog o' Gight (Gordon Castle), which was then unoccupied. The only fair held in the village owes its origin to the royal visit, and is called "Maggie Fair," in honour of the lady of Innes.

Knowledge. The streets or roads are nearly as sinuous, and the houses, as regards size and position, nearly as irregular as it is possible to make them—a large number of the houses being composed (like the one already noticed, possessed in 1650 by the laird of Innes), of clay kneaded up with straw, built into a frame and then harled over with lime. A large building, in the form of an old Presbyterian Church, is called the *Corff House*,* and is used for balls, public meetings, &c. Beyond the Corff-House is an iron foundry belonging to Mr James Duncan, who had also a saw-mill here, but the Spey carried off the water wheel and the greater part of the mill. Nearly opposite is a branch of the Caledonian Bank—the building being a handsome modern two-storey structure. About midway between Garmouth and Kingston is the Gas-Work, owned by a joint-stock company organised in 1857, from which both villages are supplied with light.

Kingston is distant from Garmouth about a mile. Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, in "The Moray Floods," erroneously supposes that Kingston was in existence at, and derived its name from, the visit paid by King Charles to the district in 1650. In 1784 the Messrs Dodsworth & Osborne, of Kingston-upon-Hull, purchased the extensive forests of Glenmore, and floated the timber down the Spey; to these enterprising gentle-

* It was originally built as a salmon-house, where the fish were first boiled (a practice given up about fifty years ago) and then packed for exportation; but the salmon trade is now carried on at the Tugnet—a block of buildings near the shore, on the opposite side of the Spey, where every convenience exists for the proper packing and export of the fish. The salmon fishing here is calculated to be worth £10,000 of yearly rental.

men Kingston owes both its origin and its name.* The houses were at first mere temporary wooden erections for the accommodation of the workmen. It is now laid out on a regular plan, and the buildings erected within the last fifty years are of a superior description, many of them being handsome two-storey houses. Near an old house which was at one time used as a granary, a number of human bones and an entire skeleton have at various periods been found. In 1860 the run of the Spey was changed, for the purpose

* The timber was at first floated down the Spey in single logs during a spate, and much of it was lost and carried out to sea ; afterwards a number of trees were fastened together to form a raft, which was guided by men standing on it. A vast trade speedily sprang up, as much as £40,000 worth of timber being exported in one year, besides what was consumed in shipbuilding. The Messrs Dodsworth began by building sloops of from 30 to 40 tons, but gradually increased their dimensions till they measured 500 tons burden. The natural grown pine being highly esteemed for that purpose, several building yards were started by local tradesmen, and Spey-built ships became greatly in demand. There being neither herring nor deep-sea fishing carried on here, the staple trade of the district has always been in timber. After the neighbouring woods had been cut down and consumed at home or exported, trade began to languish, and on the change of the Spey being effected in 1860, business came almost to a dead lock. The depth of water being then insufficient to bring vessels within easy access of the beach, few frequented the port ; building-yards and sawmills paid off numbers of their hands or stopped working altogether ; the proposed line of railway from the Fochabers station of the Highland line to the town of Fochabers and thence to Garmouth and Kingston, was abandoned in 1867, and the company dissolved, there being no prospect of the undertaking proving remunerative. Trade has, however, begun to revive, foreign timber being extensively used in shipbuilding, and if proper berthage were provided and the small canal deepened to admit vessels of a heavier draught to enter, it would be a great benefit to traders, and go far to re-establish the old state of things.

of benefiting the salmon fishing and to prevent farther encroachments on the village of Kingston. The new course discharges the river about a mile to the east of the old run, and a short distance from the Tugnet fishing station.* A shallow channel or canal connects the old harbour with the new run, but it is accessible only for vessels of light draught. The tidal action has raised a natural beach of shingle across the old mouth of the river, leaving a deep loch behind it. The building-yards and sawmills represent a great amount of capital, and when in full operation they annually turn out a large number of first-class vessels. The population of both villages is about 1000. A corps of Rifle Volunteers was formed here in 1867 as a sub-division of the 7th (Duff) Company of the Morayshire Battalion. Two conveyances run every Tuesday and Friday to Elgin, returning the same afternoon.

* The river Spey, after passing the Boat-of-Bog bridge at Fochabers frequently changed its course, sometimes running close to, and encroaching upon the higher ground on the left bank, and sometimes cutting a channel through the extensive plain of shingle extending eastward. This rapid river must have been an important point in military operations. The Royal armies in marching northward generally crossed the river opposite the burying-ground of Bellie ; and it is curious to note, that though the rebels who opposed Malcolm Canmore, Alexander I., Malcolm IV., and, in later times, the Duke of Cumberland, had assembled in force on the vantage-ground on the left bank, none of them ventured to dispute the passage. At an early period it is believed the river continued its course along the base of the bank on the west side of Kingston, and fell into the sea near Speyslaw. Each succeeding spate had turned the channel farther eastward, and the village of Kingston was built on the left bank. In times of flood the waters again tended westward, and encroached so rapidly on the village that about forty houses and gardens have been carried away by the freshets at different times since 1831.

FOCHABERS.

FOCHABERS is a burgh of barony, on the right bank of the river Spey, about four miles above its confluence with the Moray Frith. It has a population of about 1200; and gives a name to a station on the Highland Railway, which, however, is about three miles distant from the village, where a 'buss from the principal hotel meets all the leading trains on that line; and a coach, leaving in the morning and returning at night, connects it with Portsoy, from which a line of railway extends to Banff. Fochabers is a pretty village, and is rapidly increasing. It is governed by a baron-bailie appointed by the Duke of Richmond, on whose property it stands. It formerly stood in the immediate vicinity of Gordon Castle, but like many other villages which were originally composed of the personal retainers and attendants of a great chieftain, it has been removed to a more respectful distance from the mansion of its superior, and occupies a site about a mile south of its former locality, now only discernable by the ancient Cross still to be seen standing within the Duke of Richmond's parks. There are no regular markets in the village for provisions or dairy produce; but fairs for the sale of cattle, sheep, and horses are held on the third Thursday of January and February, the fourth Thursday of April and May, first Thursday of July, second Wednesday of August, and first Thursday of October and December. Fochabers is approached from the west by a picturesque bridge, erected originally in 1803, but which the flood of '29 partly carried away. It was repaired in 1832—the foundations of the piers being strengthened, and a wooden span of 185 feet

substituted for the two stone arches which had fallen.* After crossing this bridge, a graceful sweep of the road passes the entrance to Gordon Castle (see page 81). The first house on the right is a large two-storey one, and the first on the left is the *Gordon Arms Hotel*. On the opposite side, a short distance farther east, is a fine new building erected by the Union Bank of Scotland, as offices and residence for the agent. Near the centre of the town is a large Square, with a double row of trees intersecting it ; upon this Square a number of streets converge. On one side is the *Parish Church*, with portico and spire in front. At the extreme east end of the village stands *Milne's Free School*, erected in 1846—an institution which has conferred incalculable benefit on the rising generation, and attracted families to settle there on account of the admirable educational

* The foundation-stone of the Boat-of-Bog Bridge was laid in June, 1801, by the Marquis of Huntly, in presence of ten thousand spectators. It consisted of four stone arches—the two centre arches being each ninety-five feet, and one on either side of seventy-five feet each ; the piers on which they rested were thirty-six feet long by twelve feet thick, and eighteen feet high. These piers, although founded on the rock twelve feet below the ordinary water-line, were not properly secured, and the great flood of 1829 carried off the western pier, and destroyed the two arches which it supported. Several persons were on the bridge at the time of the accident, but all providentially escaped except a young man named Anderson, who was carried down and drowned. In 1832 between £5000 and £6000 were spent in repairing and securing the foundations of the centre pier, and spanning the breach with a timber arch. In 1853 dry rot was discovered in the wood work, and cast-iron beams and frame work were substituted. The cost of the original structure and subsequent repairs amount to upwards of £24,000. Pontage dues were levied at this bridge for foot passengers and vehicles until abolished in 1864 by the Elgin and Nairn Roads and Bridges Act.

training imparted to their children free.* The Roman Catholic Chapel, at the east end, is a very handsome building ; and there are also a Free Church and an Episcopal Chapel in the village. The Parochial School which formerly was in Fochabers has, since the erection of Milne's Free School, been removed to Bogmuir, a small village about three miles down the right bank of the river. The town is lighted with gas, the works standing near the western end.

ROTHES.

THE village of Rothes, nine miles south from Elgin and about eight south-west from Fochabers, is beautifully situated at the foot of a rising ground on the western edge of one of the largest and most lovely haughs on the banks of the Spey, and is entirely built on land belonging to the Earl of Seafield. The oldest

* Alexander Milne was originally a servant at Gordon Castle. The Duke having resolved to abolish the queue, and crop the servants' hair, Milne chose rather to emigrate to America than submit to be thus shorn of his honours. Having entered into mercantile pursuits in Louisiana, he accumulated a large fortune, of which, on his death in 1839, he bequeathed 100,000 dollars for educational purposes in his native village. An attempt, however, was made to defeat his intention, on the plea that the deceased's property in America could not be inherited by an alien. The case having been decided in favour of Fochabers. An elegant building, in the Tudor-collegiate style, was erected in 1846, and a statue of Milne placed over the principal entrance. The business of education is conducted by a rector, assisted by a male, female, and pupil teachers. The education afforded is sufficient to qualify for entering a university. There are nearly three hundred children not only receiving an excellent education, but also all the appliances, such as books and stationery, gratuitously. The institution is under the management of five permanent directors, and other three annually chosen by the feuars of the town.

part of the village is called Old Street, and is the principal thoroughfare; it has been almost entirely rebuilt, and contains several good two-storey houses. Green Street is the next oldest; the other streets being Burnside Street (a continuation of Green Street); Briech Street, Land Street, and New Street. The village is intersected by two mountain streams—the Burn of Rothes, crossing the streets at a right angle near the centre, and Glengrant Burn at the northern extremity,—the former supplies the motive power to a meal and fulling or waulk-mill. The greater proportion of the houses are one-storey thatched tenements, but there are many residences of greater pretensions. Near the north end is the property of Glen-Grant, consisting of 23 acres of arable, pasture, and plantation, and on which stands Glen-Grant House, a very elegant residence on a slightly elevated knoll, and commanding a magnificent prospect of the valley of the Spey and surrounding hills. The Manses of the Established and Free Churches, in the outskirts, are also excellent and commodious buildings, erected on elevated positions commanding extensive views. The Caledonian Bank, erected in 1867, is a handsome building; and near the centre of the village is the *Grant Arms Hotel*, a well known and justly celebrated hostelry. There are two churches in Rothes—the *Established Church*, near the burn side, is in the old Presbyterian style, and was thoroughly repaired in 1868. The *Free Church* congregation worshipped for a number of years in a temporary erection till 1858, when they built the present handsome and substantial structure, which is a credit to the congregation and an ornament to the

village. This church and the schools under the management of the congregation adjoin each other, in the immediate vicinity of the Railway Station. The Rothes Academy stands on the southern slope of the high ground on the west of the village, which it overlooks. It is a very good school, with a residence for the rector erected in 1867. On the same slope, a little north-east of the Academy, is a Young Ladies Seminary. The Castle of Rothes, formerly the stronghold of the Leslies, occupies a prominent position on a rising ground (see p. 30.) Perhaps the most striking feature in Rothes to strangers is the number of small shopkeepers, almost every house fronting the long street being a shop of some kind, the greater number of them containing an assortment of all articles necessary in a country district. The principal industry, however, is the manufacture of whisky, which is carried on at the *Glengrant Distillery*, near the north end of the village. It is now the most extensive establishment of the kind in this whisky producing county.* The village was lighted with gas in 1850 ; and there are branches of the City of Glasgow and Caledonian Banking Companies in it.

* The celebrated distillery of Glengrant was established by the Messrs J. & J. Grant in 1840, on the bank of the burn of the same name. Great additions were made to the distillery in 1865, rendering it one of the most complete establishments of the kind in the north. Two new warehouses were erected, increasing the storage accommodation to about 30,000 gallons ; a large new still was put in, and also additional rectifiers, with pipes from each into the stills, which condense the refuse and put it a second time through the process of distillation. Cold water flows constantly into each rectifier, and the hot water is discharged by pipes—a peculiarity of construction tending very much to improve the quality of the whisky. The distillery is capable of turning out upwards of 1600 gallons of spirits per week.

GRANTOWN.

GRANTOWN was founded by Sir James Grant of Grant, in 1776. It is one of the principal stations on the Highland Railway, 48 miles from Inverness and 96 miles north of Perth. Grantown is not properly speaking in the county of Moray, being built on that portion of the county of Inverness which is here dovetailed into that of Moray. The principal street is 56 feet broad, running east and west, from which cross lanes diverge at regular intervals on both sides; those to the south side connect it with another street running parallel with the principal one. Towards the east end of it is a spacious Square, 700 feet long by 108 broad, having a double row of trees in the centre, between which the road is confined. The village is now rapidly extending; it contains about 1500 inhabitants, and is much frequented as summer quarters by visitors from a distance, who are attracted to it by its clean and airy situation and the pleasant and picturesque scenery surrounding it. No village of its size in the north of Scotland can compare with it either in beauty of situation or in neatness of structure, the houses being all built of fine-grained light-coloured granite. Water was introduced in the year 1849, and gas in 1864. The National, Caledonian, and Royal Banking Companies have each branch offices here, and there are a good number of extremely elegant shops and three excellent inns. On entering the village from the Highland Railway Station at the west, after crossing the burn, on the right are some excellent and very substantial three-storey houses, built in 1867 by Mr Macgillivray, car-

penter. On the same side are several neat ornamental cottages, and on the left is the *Free Church School*, and farther east on the same side is the *Baptist Chapel*. The next building likely to attract attention is the splendid new house and bank offices erected in 1866 by the *Royal Bank*, almost opposite which a road breaks off, leading past the Free Church towards Spey Bridge, and the Grantown station on the Strathspey Railway. On the north-west corner of this road stands the *New Inn*. Before the introduction of railways this road was one of the principal thoroughfares in the town, leading to the highway passing both up and down the Spey. Near the Royal Bank and on the same side of the street is a range of two-storey dwelling-houses, with fine shops on the ground flat, built by Mr Sim, draper. Near this part of the village the principal business of the place is carried on, and there are a great number of shops well stocked with a finer class of goods than is generally found in places of its size. The *Black Bull Inn* stands on the south side of the street, a short distance from the Square. *Caledonian Bank*.—On the north-west corner of the Square is an extremely handsome house, built in 1867 by the Caledonian Banking Company for offices and residence to the agent. This is one of the largest and most picturesque buildings in the village. On passing this bank we enter the Square, already noticed. Near the centre, on the north side, and receding a short distance back is the Church or *Chapel of Ease*, a pretty large but not very handsome building, with bell-cot on the east end. East from this are several detached buildings, conspicuous amongst which is the *National Bank*, a fine two-

storey building, having the bank offices on the ground floor and the agent's residence above.

On the south side of the Square stands the *Speyside Orphan Hospital*, a neat structure with dome and clock tower, built in 1824 after the plan of the Orphan Hospital in Edinburgh. Near this, on the south side of the village on a slightly elevated mound, is the *Grammar School*, at one time considered an excellent structure, but now considerably behind the age both in external appearance and internal accommodation. On the same side of the Square is the *Grant Arms Hotel*, the principal one in the village. In this inn Her Majesty the Queen and the Prince Consort spent a night on the occasion of their incognito visit to Strathspey in 1860.*

* The Royal visit to Grantown is commemorated by an annual holiday on the 4th September. Her Majesty happily sketches the event in "Leaves from the Journal of Our Life in the Highlands." The Royal party left Balmoral at eight o'clock on the morning of the 4th September, 1860, and arrived at Grantown in the evening, "after a most interesting tour." "The evening was mild," Her Majesty writes, "with a few drops of rain. On and on we went, till at length we saw lights, and drove through the long straggling 'toun,' and turned down a small court to the door of the inn. Here we got out quickly, Lady Churchill and General Grey not waiting for us. We went up a small staircase, and were shown to our bedroom at the top of it—very small, but clean, with a large four-posted bed which nearly filled the whole room. Opposite was the drawing and dining-room in one, very tidy and well sized. Then came the room where Albert dressed, which was very small. The two maids (Jane Shackle, one of my wardrobe maids, was with me) had driven over by another road in the waggonette, Stewart driving them. Made ourselves 'clean and tidy,' and then sat down to our dinner. Grant and Brown were to have waited on us, but were 'bashful,' and did not. A ringleted woman did everything, and when dinner was over removed the cloth, and placed the bottle of wine (our own, which we had brought) on the table, with the glasses, which was the old English fashion. The

Still farther east on the burn bank, is an ornamental and commodious school, erected about ten years ago as an *Infant and Industrial School*, under the manage-

dinner was very fair, and all very clean ; soups, hodge-podge, mutton broth, with vegetables, which I did not much relish, fowl with white sauce, good roast lamb, very good potatoes, besides one or two other dishes which I did not taste, ending with a good tart of cranberries. After dinner I tried to write part of this account (but the talking round me confused me), while Albert played at 'patience.' Then went away to begin undressing, and it was about half-past eleven when we got to bed.

" Wednesday, September 5.—A misty, rainy morning. Had not slept very soundly. We got up rather early, and sat working and reading in the drawing-room till the breakfast was ready, for which we had to wait some little time. Good tea and bread and butter, and some excellent porridge. Jane Shackle (who was very useful and attentive) said that they had all supped together—namely, the two maids, and Grant, Brown, Stewart and Walker (who was still there), and were very merry in the 'commercial room.' The people were very amusing about us. The woman came in while they were at their dinner, and said to Grant, ' Dr Grey wants you,' which nearly upset the gravity of all the others. Then they told Jane, ' Your lady gives no trouble ;' and Grant in the morning called up to Jane, ' Does his lordship want me ?' One could look on the street—which is a very long wide one, with detached houses—from our window. It was perfectly quiet; not one stirring, except here and there a man driving a cart, or a boy going along on his errand. General Grey bought himself a watch in a shop for £2 !

" At length at about ten minutes to ten o'clock, we started in the same carriages and the same way as yesterday, and drove up to Castle-Grant, Lord Seafield's place—a fine (not Highland looking) place, with a very plain-looking house, like a factory, about two miles from the town. It was drizzling almost the whole time. We did not get out, but drove back, having to pass through Grantown again, where evidently ' the murder was out,' for all the people were in the street, and the landlady waved her pocket-handkerchief, and the ringleted maid (who had curl-papers in the morning) waved a flag from the window. Our coachman evidently did not observe or guess anything. As we drove out of the town, turning to our right through a wood,

ment of the Countess of Seafield and a committee of the leading inhabitants. A new Court-house is in course of erection at the east end of the Square, and when completed will be another ornament to this part of the village. The Court-house is erected at the joint expense of the counties of Inverness and Moray. At the east end of the Square the street crosses the Burn by a bridge and leads to the eastern extremity of the village.

we met many people coming into the town, which the coachman said was for a funeral. We passed over the Spey by the Bridge of Spey. We heard since that the secret came out through a man recognising Albert in the street yesterday morning ; then the crown on the dog-cart made them think it was some one from Balmoral, though they never suspected that it could be ourselves. 'The lady must be terrible rich,' the woman observed, as I had so many gold rings on my fingers. I told Lady Churchill she had on many more than I had. When they heard who it was, they were ready to drop with astonishment and fright. I fear I have but poorly recounted this very amusing and never-to-be-forgotten expedition, which will always be remembered with delight.'

GUIDE TO VISITORS.

As already stated in our introductory remarks, the county of Moray is intersected by various lines of railway and public highways, affording every facility for visiting all the places of interest throughout the county. A brief description of the different routes may interest the general reader, and be of advantage to the many strangers who annually visit this part of the country.

THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY—PERTH TO FORRES.

The Highland Railway is now the great highway from the South, being considerably shorter than by way of Aberdeen. The Perth and Dunkeld line is run on between these stations, and after passing Dalguise and Guay, Ballinluig is reached, where a branch line strikes off to Aberfeldy. The line here traverses a district of country unequalled for the wild grandeur of its rugged birch-clad mountains and fertile glens. From the pretty little town of Pitlochry a short drive brings us to the far-famed Pass of Killiecrankie, where

Claverhouse was killed.* Ten miles farther on is the picturesque town of Blair-Athole, near which is the seat of His Grace the Duke of Athole, where Her Majesty had one of her happiest Highland rambles. On leaving the small station and village of Struan, the scenery suddenly changes, and the traveller may prepare for a weary drive through the defiles of the Grampian range; skirting the impetuous Tummel, as it dashes along its rocky bed, and passing Dalnaspidal station, Inverness-shire is entered on the banks of the Truim. The next station is Dalwhinnie, in the wilds of Drumouchter, where, should the traveller happen to rest, it is hoped better fare will be provided than that supplied to Her Majesty on the occasion of her visit in 1861, when only "two miserable, starved Highland chickens" could be furnished to the Royal party—the attendants' fare being the picking of the bones ! The Highlands of Badenoch

* The Pass of Killiecrankie—on the banks of the Garry, about a mile and a-half above its confluence with the Tummel—is a footpath hanging over a tremendous precipice, and is between two and three miles in length. The celebrated battle of Killiecrankie was fought on the 27th July, 1689, between General Mackay, the leader of the Covenanters, with 4500 men, and Viscount Dundee, "the bloody Clavers," with 2000 Highlanders and 500 Irish. The Highlanders stript themselves to their shirts and doublets, rushed in upon the Royal troops sword in hand, and with the tremendous strokes of their axes and broadswords, felled their opponents to the earth. Mackay tried to rally his men, but they fled pell-mell down the hill, when 2000 of them were slain and 500 taken prisoners.

" Like a tempest down the ridges
Swept the hurricane of steel,
Rose the slogan of M'Donald,
Flashed the broadsword of Lochiel ! | Vainly sped the withering volley,
'Mongst the foremost of our band ;
On we poured until we met them,
Foot to foot and hand to hand."

Viscount Dundee was shot in the right side, when he fell from his horse and almost immediately expired. General Mackay retreated to Stirling, which he reached with only 400 men.

now become less barren, and we glide smoothly along, occasionally nearing the banks of the Spey. Passing Kingussie on the left, Kinrara, with its beautiful monument, on the right, and gliding under the shadows of the Craigellachie rocks on the left, MORAYSHIRE is entered at the *Aviemore Station*. A short drive of five miles brings us to the Boat of Garten Station, where the *Strathspey Railway* breaks off on the right, leading down the Spey to the lower Craigellachie. Passing the villages of Drumullie and Carr-Bridge on the left, with Spey on the right, we arrive at the Broomhill Station. A long wooden bridge here connects this station with Bridge of Nethy, one of the principal stations for starting up the Cairngorms. A little farther on, we cross the river Dulnan by a handsome girder bridge on three piers. On the left, up the Dulnan, are the ruins of the old Castle of Muckerach (p. 31), and on the left, on the opposite side of the Spey, we see Castle-Roy (p. 29) in Abernethy. Passing Ballintomb Distillery on the right, the old ruined kirk and burying-ground of Inverallan, with Inverallan House, the handsome residence of Mr Smith, are seen. Immediately after leaving the Grantown Station, the village appears on the right (p. 311); and on emerging from a rather deep rocky cutting, we get a glimpse of Castle-Grant (p. 57), also on the right. At this point the line tends more northerly, and leaving the valley of the Spey, leads past Huntly's Cave, where one of the Earls of Huntly is said to have been concealed from his enemies for several weeks. After passing this deeply wooded ravine, and through a long expanse of moor ground, we arrive at the Dava Station. On

the left about a mile distant is Lochindorb with its Old Castle (p. 38); a neat shooting-lodge stands near the west end of the Loch. The large hill on the left is the Knock of Braemoray, the highest hill in the county, on the north-west slope of which is the small village of Tomdoo. Descending by a long series of steep gradients through a deep cutting, we arrive at the Divie Viaduct.* Immediately beyond this viaduct lies the snug manse of Edinkillie, with the church and glebe close beside it. Near this point, on the old toll road, the principal approach to Dunphail breaks off (p. 71.) A little farther down the Divie is Relugas (p. 117), long the residence of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder; passing the School of Pitnisk on the left, through a pretty extensive fir wood, we arrive at the small station of Dunphail. Near this, on the left, is Logie House (p. 106), on the banks of the Findhorn. From this point to Forres, the line is no great distance from the river, but the woods are so dense as to prevent any glimpse of the lovely and romantic scenery on its banks being seen. Shortly after leaving Dunphail, we enter the estate and woods of Altyre (p. 41,)—the mansion-house standing on the right side of the railway. Emerging from the Altyre woods, on the right is seen the Tower of Blervie (p. 35), and the handsome Gothic church of Rafford. A little farther down we come in sight of the Forres Hydropathic Establishment (p. 277), and then get a

* The Divie Viaduct is an imposing structure, composed of seven arches of forty-five feet span each, at a height of 105 feet above the bed of the river; the entire length being 494 feet. It is built of the hard gneissose rock abounding in the district, and contains 9500 cubic yards of mason work, weighing about 1900 tons.

glimpse of Sanquhar House (p. 122) on the right, and Thornhill (p. 243) on the left, and enter the town of Forres (p. 233.)

INVERNESS TO KEITH.

Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, is the northern terminus of the Highland line, the railway system beyond that point being owned by a separate company. On leaving this beautifully situated and prosperous town, Abertarff, Millburn, and Raigmore are passed on the right, the firth and the dark hills of Ross being on the left. At Culloden Station, in the forest on the right stands the historically-interesting mansion of the Forbeses of Culloden, the hill beyond which was the scene of the famous battle in 1746. The next station is Dalcross, and on the heights above are the ruins of Dalcross Castle, from the top of which a most exquisite view is obtained. The Fort-George Station is about a mile and a-half from the village of Campbelton of Ardersier, and more than three miles from Fort-George. This fort is garrisoned by small detachments of infantry; both the 76th Highland Light Infantry Militia and 96th Highland Rifle Militia undergo their annual training here. Six miles farther on, the town of Nairn is reached, where excellent sea-bathing quarters are to be found. The most westerly point of the county of Moray is touched by the Railway a few miles beyond Nairn, near the Hardmuir; a knoll on the south side of the line, crowned with a group of dark old pines rising above the rest of the wood, is believed, according to immemorial tradition, to be the spot where the meeting took place between

Macbeth and the Witches. On entering the Brodie Station, on the left is the Castle of Brodie (p. 52), situated in the midst of a well wooded park. Passing the mill and the burn of Brodie, a few miles farther on, to the left, are Dalvey House and gardens (p. 72); while away about two miles on the right, in the midst of a vast forest, is Darnaway Castle (p. 65.) A deep cutting brings us to the Findhorn;—on the right is the Suspension Bridge (p. 245); while down the river are the estates of Moy (p. 109), and Kin-corth (p. 100.) The line crosses the Findhorn by a handsome iron-plate tubular bridge (p. 245), after crossing which, and passing Grieshop on the right (p. 245), and Edgefield House on the left (p. 245), the Forres Station is entered, where the Inverness and Keith, and Forres and Perth sections join.

On leaving the Forres station by the eastward route, the Mills and Chemical Works are passed on the left (p. 239), and crossing the burn, a short distance to the north, is Invererne House, encircled by a belt of trees (p. 98.) The town of Forres and the Nelson Monument are on the left; and still farther on, on the same side, is the mansion house of Grangehall (p. 89.) Before entering the Kinloss Station, we pass the Abbey of Kinloss* (p. 15), north of which is the Parish Church,

* We omitted in referring to the Abbey of Kinloss, at page 15, to take notice of its great Abbot, Robert Reid, one of the best men of his age and country; and really one can scarcely think of the abbey without being reminded of him. We fear we cannot claim him as a native of Morayshire, although many from the place of his birth may think so. He was the son of John Reid of Aikenhead (which probably is in Fife); his father and others of his kindred were killed in the

and the mansion and grounds of Sea-Park (p. 120.) From this station a short line runs to the port of Findhorn. To the right, on the south side of the main line, nearly two miles distant, are the old Castle of Burgie (p. 36,) and the modern mansion of Burgie House

fatal battle of Flodden, in 1513. His mother was Elizabeth, or Bessie, Schanwell, sister to Robert Schanwell, vicar of Kirkcaldy, one of the ordinary Lords of Session, and of John Schanwell, abbot of Cupar. Robert Reid was born about the year 1495; he was entered a student at St Andrews in 1511, and after going through the usual course of study there he finished his education at the University of Paris, where he studied the canon and civil law. He was elected Abbot of Kinloss in 1526, Bishop of Orkney in 1541, sent on four missions to Rome in the time of Popes Adrian the 6th, Clement the 7th, and Paul the 3d. He was one of the Commissioners for concluding a peace with England in 1534. He was elected President of the Court of Session in 1543, in room of Alexander Myln, abbot of Cambuskenneth. On the death of King James the Fifth, he was appointed one of the guardians of the young Queen Mary, and afterwards one of the Commissioners to conclude her marriage with Francis the Dauphin of France. He died at Dieppe on his return journey from France, on the 15th September, 1558. Abbot Reid introduced literature, architecture, and the fine arts into Morayshire; and when Bishop of Orkney he did the same in that remote diocese. He also left a large legacy to endow a University in Edinburgh, and part of the money was used for that purpose and made a beginning to that celebrated seat of learning. In a dark, immoral, and licentious age, Robert Reid was a bright luminary, an able, religious, and moral man, gifted with abilities of the highest order.*

* It has been asserted that Robert Reid was a native of Aikenhead in Kindendar, Morayshire, and we should be much pleased if this could be proved; but after a very careful inquiry we cannot find the slightest evidence in support of this statement. His relations, so far as known, both on the father's and mother's side, point to a connection with the south of Scotland. His father could not have been proprietor of Aikenhead in Morayshire, because it was Church lands, and is so inserted in the rental of the bishopric of Moray in the year 1565, and there is not even a tenant of the name of Reid then on the property.

(p. 55.) On the eastward plain to the left, and well sheltered with plantations, which hide it from view, is Milton-Brodie (p. 108.) The line here passes through some of the most extensive and valuable farms in Morayshire. Four miles east of Kinloss is the Alves Station, where another line branches off to Burghead (p. 283); the main line then skirts the southern shoulder of the Alves hill for a considerable distance, and enters the marshy lands of Mosstowie. On the right is the extensive wooded hill of Heldon; in the beautiful valley beyond which lie the ruins of Pluscarden Priory (p. 20); on the left, the most conspicuous object is the Duke of York's Tower on the top of a conical hill called the Knock of Alves (p. 111), at the northern side of which stands Newton House (p. 110.) Aldroughty is next seen on the left; it is beautifully situated on the banks of the river Lossie and near the edge of Quarrywood. After crossing the Blackburn, and passing Haughland House, the excellent residence of The Grove lies on the right.* Crossing the Lossie by a wooden bridge resting on stone piers, Palmercross House is on the right (p. 133); and to the left is the property of Gallow Crook, recently acquired by John Stephen, Esq.; on this property, beside the old “Gallow Hill,” is the West Brewery,

* The Grove is the property of the Rev. Thomas Stephen of Kinloss, and stands on the left bank of the Lossie, immediately outside the Elgin burgh boundary. Several additions were made to it a few years ago, and it now forms an elegant family residence—having an excellent garden, with lawn for pleasure-ground, enclosed with hedgerows and plantain. This property formerly belonged to the late William Jenkins Esq., from whom it was purchased by the late Dr Stephen.

established nearly forty years ago. About a mile south of this is the estate of Main, belonging to Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. James Grant, the home-farm and mansion-house being presently occupied by Provost Russell, Elgin. From Palmercross House the line passes through a deep cutting, until it emerges on the plain known as the Wards, on the north-eastern corner of which the Elgin Station is placed, from which, however, only the newer portion of the city can be seen, the older part being on the north side of a high ridge (p. 127.) The most conspicuous objects are South Guildry Street, with the tall spire of the South Free Church ; the pleasant looking cottages in Reidhaven Street ; and Moss Street, with the Station Hotel and Dalehagle House at one end of it, and the turrets of the United Presbyterian Church at the other. Eastward on the right is the village of New-Elgin (p. 231.)

On leaving the station, the train passes beneath the road to Birnie and Rothes ; on the left is the Morayshire Railway Station (p. 209) ; and after passing under three bridges within the space of a few hundred yards, an open plain is reached ; on the right is Linkwood, the residence of Peter Brown Esq., and on the left a large expanse of champaign country, beautifully interspersed with trees and hedgerows. Passing the handsome house and farm of Barmuckity, through a small plantation of trees and several fields, on the right is the Tower of Coxton (p. 32;) and on the left the farm of Sheriffston, the Church, Manse, and Schoolhouse of St Andrews. A glimpse of beauti-

ful landscape is here obtained of the lower part of the county, including the Palace of Spynie, the Covesea Lighthouse, &c., after which we enter the Station at Lhanbryd.* From the village of Lhanbryd a road leads off in a north-easterly direction towards Garmouth. About two miles out this road is the village of Urquhart,† which like its neighbour Lhanbryd is a dependency of the Earl of Fife. Nearly a mile beyond

* The village of Lhanbryd is pleasantly situated on the north side of the railway, with the great trunk highway passing through it. The village was entirely remodelled in 1854, under the direction of the Trustees of James, Second Earl of Fife, who had the ground marked off in terraces and divided into small allotments, on which uniform rows of comfortable cottages were erected. No more pleasant looking village can be seen, nor one with better facilities for sanitary arrangements. At the west end are several excellent buildings, where a *Young Ladies' Boarding Establishment* has been carried on since 1854. The *Fife Arms Inn* is a large and elegant building, erected in 1850 by Mr Fraser, and now in the possession of Mr Proctor. Mechanics, artizans, and shopkeepers are abundant, and a thriving manufacturing trade is carried on in a block of building between the Railway Station and the burn, where blankets, plaiddings, and winceys are made. The parish *Burying Ground* is on a knoll about the centre of the village, and contains several quaint old monuments—the most noticeable being an enclosed tomb perpetuating the memory of the Inneses of Coxton, and containing a recumbent knight in armour placed within an alcove. At the east end of the village, where the road turns off towards Urquhart and Garmouth, are two very pretty cottages, belonging respectively to Mrs Donaldson and Mr Pennycuick.

† Entering the village of Urquhart from Lhanbryd, the *Established Church Manse* lies on the left, with lawn and garden in front. A supply of excellent water is brought from Lochnabo to a reservoir, and distributed through the village by pipes. The *Free Church Manse* and *Parochial School* are situated on the left, near the centre of the village. At the east end is the *Free Church*, and the *Free Church School*; adjoining which is the *Burying-*

Lhanbryd Station, on the right within the wood, is a pretty little lake called Lochnabo, well enclosed and the excellent trout fishing carefully reserved for the noble proprietor. Not far from this, where the railway embankment slopes to a deep ravine and morass, the traveller catches a glimpse of the wood near the spot

Ground, a hollow space in the centre marking the site of the old parish church, which was taken down after the Disruption, and part of the materials used in building both the Free Church and the *Parish Church*; the latter is a neat Gothic building occupying a commanding situation a short distance to the north-east of the village—its strong buttresses and finely proportioned tower and turrets giving it a very pleasing appearance. The road from this church leads to the farm of Innesmill, between which and Viewfield, in a prominent position, is a *Druidical Circle*, pretty entire. In the valley to the west of this stands Innes House, one of the baronial seats of the Earl of Fife (p. 94), and still farther west is Leuchars House. In a pleasant hollow on the farm of Clockeasy, about a quarter of a mile east from the village stood the *Priory of Urquhart*, founded and richly endowed by David I. in 1125. It was the earliest monastic establishment in the province, and about the fourteenth century was abandoned, and the buildings allowed to go to ruins. Little is known of the extent of the building, although part of the foundations of what is supposed to have been the enclosing wall are occasionally disclosed, and relics are now and again found. In 1866, what appeared to be an oak beam with a transverse plank attached to it, was dug up. The *Abbey Well*, a spring now much neglected and scarcely discernible, is supposed to be the well that supplied the priory with water, and formerly it was considered to be possessed of peculiar efficacy in curing particular disorders. *Finfan Well* lies nearly two miles farther east, on the side of the Garmouth road; the mineral water closely resembling that of the Strathpeffer Spa. The late Dr M'Kidd, while practising in Elgin, analysed the water and found it highly impregnated with iron, giving it valuable tonic properties; he therefore strongly recommended it to the public. A few invalids occasionally resort to it in summer. The well is enclosed, and walks are formed through wood which surrounds it.

where Kenneth Leal was hung in chains, in 1772, for robbing the mails. The line here traverses a tract of waste land, parts of which have been planted. Immediately before reaching Fochabers Station, a glimpse is had of the village of Fochabers, the spires of Buckie Cathedral, and a stretch of coast scenery. From Fochabers Station a 'bus runs to the village, about three miles distant (p. 306.) The view is now considerably circumscribed by plantations and deep cuttings, only a glimpse of the open country being obtained occasionally. After passing the old Orton toll-bar, on the left is Orton House, in the midst of its park of fine trees (p. 113), and then we arrive at the Orton Station. At this station a branch of the Morayshire Railway leads to Rothes, but no trains have been run on it since 1866. On the left are several very fine farms, and the Shooting Lodge of Delfure. From Orton Station a short curve on a high embankment brings us to the Railway Viaduct across the Spey. The viaduct is 230 feet span, and is connected to the high embankment across the valley by a series of stone arches. A few yards up the river is the Boat-of-Brig Suspension Bridge, of 235 feet span, similar to the one across the Findhorn at Forres, but of less imposing appearance. From the Spey the line rises by a series of steep gradients along the Mulben Burn, with precipitous rugged banks and some very picturesque views, till the level is reached near the Mulben Station, on the confines of the county of Moray. From Mulben a short drive of five miles brings us into Keith Station, the eastern terminus of the Highland Railway.

GREAT NORTH OF SCOTLAND RAILWAY—ABERDEEN TO CRAIGELLACHIE.

The great feature of this extensive system of railway is the large number of subsidiary or branch lines, diverging from and acting as feeders to the main line. These branches were formed by independent companies, but by degrees all the lines connected with the Great North (with the exception of the Morayshire), were amalgamated with the parent stock, and now form one concern. In 1867 a junction was formed between the Scottish Central (Scottish North-Eastern) and this system in the Denburn Valley at Aberdeen, where a magnificent joint station has been erected. The fourth station from Aberdeen (distance, six and a-half miles), is Dyce, where the Formartine and Buchan line branches off to the right. At Kintore, the Alford railway strikes off to the left, and traverses the beautiful valley of Alford for sixteen miles. From Inverury a short line goes to Oldmeldrum; and from Inveramsay station the Banff, Macduff, and Turriff line breaks off. Between Inveramsay and Huntly, a distance of only twenty miles, there are seven stations. Passing Huntly (the capital of Strathbogie) and Rothiemay station, Grange is reached, where the Banff, Portsoy, and Strathisla Railway tends northward to the coast. Four miles and a-half brings us to Keith, where a junction is formed with the Highland line. The Great North here takes a devious course to the south-west, and passing Earlsmill, Botriphnie, and Drummuir, reaches the Dufftown Station, which is, however, a considerable distance from the village,

From this point the line descends by steep gradients and sharp curves through beautiful scenery on the banks of the Fiddoch to Craigellachie Junction, where it is connected with the Morayshire system on the one hand, and with the Strathspey section of its own system on the other, traversing the course of the Spey to Abernethy, and joining the Highland Railway at Boat of Garten.

CRAIGELLACHIE TO BOAT OF GARTEN.

Immediately on passing out of the station, the Craigellachie Bridge appears to the right, about 500 yards farther up the river.* This celebrated bridge carries the turnpike road across the Spey from the Craigellachie rock to the opposite valley, at a point where the water is thirty feet deep. Passing the village of Craigellachie on the left, and through a short tunnel, we emerge again into light, with the waters of the Spey rolling almost under our feet. Above us at this point on the left, is Aberlour House (p. 46); and on the opposite side of the river is Easter Elchies

* This bridge was erected in 1815 by Mr Simpson of Shrewsbury, after a design by the eminent engineer Telford, and it withstood the floods of 1829, when the water here rose to the height of fifteen feet above the ordinary level. The arch is 150 feet span, and the turrets rise to 50 feet. "These towers," says Anderson in his guide to the Highlands, "during the floods of 1829, established in a remarkable manner the superior durability of a hollow cylindrical construction of masonry, for they were but little affected by the pressure of water which swept away many seemingly stronger bridges." It was erected at a cost of £8200, raised partly by subscription, and partly by voluntary assessment, along with a grant of £4000 from Government. The roadway on the north side is hewn out of solid rock, involving a cutting of 70 feet in height by 100 feet in length.

(p. 79.) At the Aberlour Station, the village (with its mausoleum, two handsome churches, three hotels, and several beautiful residences,) is on our left ; from this the line runs up the right bank of the river through several singularly beautiful reaches, with the House of Kinnermony on the left, and Wester Elchies (p. 77,) and the picturesque villa of Laggan (p. 104) on the right, till near Carron House (p. 63), we cross to the left bank of the river on an elevated girder bridge of substantial appearance and handsome proportions,* and enter the Carron Station. From this Station the Railway Company have formed an excellent road leading direct up to the village of Archiestown, about three miles north on the face of the hill, and another road leading more westerly towards the Church and Manse of Knockando. Rather more than a mile from Carron Station, on a lofty plateau, is Knockando House (p. 103.) The line now wends its tortuous way, sometimes almost brushing the river's edge, then through beautiful flats of natural birch, or through a deep rocky cutting, or over a high built bridge across some of the impetuous mountain streams. Passing the Station of Blacksboat and the Church and Manse

* The Carron Bridge has three arches—of massive, powerful, yet elegant construction. The centre arch is 150 feet span, resting on granite piers twenty feet above the bed of the river, and is composed of huge iron ribs in three sections, firmly braced together. On either side is an arch of mason-work, having 25 feet span—the united water-way being 200 feet. The piers rise into octagonal towers, and give the bridge an elegant appearance ; the distance between parapets is 25½ feet, affording a roadway for vehicles and another for foot-passengers, as well as for the railway. This bridge cost £10,000, and was opened on the 13th June, 1863.

of Inveravon on the left, and crossing the river again by the Balnellan Viaduct,* we soon find ourselves at Ballindalloch Station. Here on the left the clear rapid Avon empties itself into the Spey ; and on the haugh formed by the blending of these two rivers into one stands the splendid castellated mansion, Ballindalloch Castle (p. 49.) From Ballindalloch Station a coach runs daily to Tomintoul, about twenty miles up the side of the river Avon. From this point the line continues on the right bank of the river, through several deep sandy cuttings, with the old Church of Advie on the right. A few hundred yards after passing Advie Station, Tulchan Lodge (p. 123) is seen snugly seated in the cleft between two picturesque hills on the right. Near the small side station of Dalvey is the extensive farm from which it takes its name, and which has recently been considerably enlarged by extensive improvements carried out on the face of the hill opposite. The line still continues close to the river and road, till after taking a sharp turn where it has been cut out of solid rock, almost overtopping the Spey, it rushes out into the plains of Cromdale. The station is at a short distance from the road, about half-way between it and the church,

* The Balnellan Viaduct is in several respects similar to the one which carries the Morayshire line across the Spey at Craigellachie—a lattice-girder. The massive piers supporting the iron work rise twenty-two feet above the water line, and the sides or lattice bracings are seventeen feet high. The last of 40,000 rivets was clenched into this structure by Sir George Macpherson Grant on the 28th May, 1863, and at the same time it was christened by Lady Macpherson Grant. The viaduct cost £12,000.

which is beautifully situated on the banks of the Spey. About half-way between Cromdale and Grantown is the curious old house of Congash, where Captain Grant resided, who in 1820 led the memorable descent of the Highlanders to Elgin (p. 176.) The Grantown Station is fully a mile from the village (p. 311), which is approached by a road crossing the Spey by the first bridge ever built over its rapid course. Soon an opening on the right gives us a glimpse of Inverallan House and churchyard ; and on reaching the plain, we afterwards pass Castle Roy (p. 29) and the Church and Manse of Abernethy, and a few minutes brings us into the station at Bridge of Nethy. Crossing the river Nethy by a strong girder bridge, and passing the house of Birchfield, a short distance farther on we cross the Spey by a wooden bridge, and enter the Boat of Garten Station, as noticed at p. 318.

MORAYSHIRE RAILWAY—CRAIGELLACHIE TO ELGIN.

The surrounding scenery at the Craigellachie Junction is of that wild and romantic, yet calm and peaceful character that never fails to attract the notice, and draw forth the admiration of a stranger. The first object of particular notice, apart from the beauty of the landscape, is the magnificent lattice-girder viaduct by which we cross the Spey. This imposing piece of architecture and triumph of engineering skill, is the heaviest undertaking connected with the Morayshire Railway, and differs materially from the general construction of railway viaducts, in the lattice-work of which its sides are composed—the view while crossing

the river being thus only partially obstructed.* Across the Spey, and the traveller finds himself in Morayshire ; to the right is Dandaleith House, the residence of Colonel Marshall, and on the same side is Arndilly House (p. 44), so beautifully situated on the slopes of Ben-Aigen. From the Dandaleith Station a highway leads across the old turnpike, and proceeds up the hill towards Knockando. With the Spey on the right, and the high ground on the left, a short drive brings us to Rothes (p. 308), with its Conrock hill, its hoary Castle,

* On the Morayshire side of the river there are three substantial stone piers, each fifty-seven feet apart, and crossed by strong iron girders. From the third pier to the abutment on the south side of the river, the distance is 200 feet, spanned by a lattice-girder roadway. The two piers on which the viaduct rests are of solid ashlar masonry, founded on cast-iron cylinders, each five feet in diameter and thirteen feet six inches long ; the main pier is founded on eighteen of these cylinders, and the southern abutment on the south side of the river on fourteen. These cylinders rest on gravel and clay, fourteen feet below the bed of the river, and are filled with concrete and then covered over with pitching ; the foundation course of masonry is then laid so that every stone has a hold of two or more cylinders. The bridge itself consists of two malleable iron lattice-girders, seventeen feet six inches high, and seventeen feet apart from centre to centre—the permanent way being laid on the lower part of the girder, supported on malleable iron cross girders and balks. The spaces or lattice-bar openings are about two feet six inches clear, the bars being placed at an angle of forty-five degrees, and firmly rivetted together at the intersections. The girders are braced together at the top, bottom, and sides by iron diaphrams, placed fifty feet apart. The three small spans and the principal girders are securely rivetted together on the main pier, and are firmly secured with bolts built ten feet into the solid masonry ; the other ends of the girders are not fastened, to allow free expansion and contraction. This magnificent work was finished by the directors clenching the last rivet on the 1st June, 1863 ; the total cost of the structure was between £12,000 and £13,000.

and pleasantly-situated Manses. The Free Church and Schools adjoin the Station, and the Academy appears on the high ground opposite. Glengrant House and Distillery are on our left as we leave the village, we soon pass the farm of Drumbain, and bowl along "The Glen." On the heights to the right is the estate of Auchinroath (p. 48), with its snug mansion. The turbulent burn of Coleburn and the line of railway run parallel to each other for a considerable distance. A small Carding Mill and Woollen Manufactory, which usually employs but a few hands, is passed on the right,* and the "Scaat Craig" is come upon, where so many geological specimens have been gathered to grace the shelves of the antiquarian's cabinet. The Longmorn Station accommodates the people in the Clackmarras district and the eastern part of the parish of Birnie. Here there is a meal, barley, and sawmill, driven by the water of Coleburn. The land is of a light sandy nature, until the extensive farm of Linkwood is entered. Crossing the Linkwood Burn, several hundred yards above the farm steading, with the Distillery and Flour Mills, and emerging from a long deep cutting, the Highland Railway is crossed; on the left is Ashgrove (p. 197,) with the curious umbrella tree; and on the right is the farm steading of Tyockside. Descending the steep embankment, the Pinefield Nurseries (p. 194) and Newmill (p. 190,) &c., are on the right, and a magnificent view of Elgin is obtained.

* In the Parliamentary contest connected with the formation of the Rothes direct line, the importance of this establishment was so highly magnified, that it has since been known in the locality as "Little Manchester!"

The level of the Lossiemouth section is gained at the Morayshire Sawmills, and on crossing the Linkwood road the traveller is within the Station enclosures.

ELGIN TO LOSSIEMOUTH.

This short line connecting the City of Elgin with its seaport of Lossiemouth, was the first link of the important railway chain by which the north of Scotland is now traversed, and the most populous and enterprising commercial districts thereby brought into direct communication with the great industrial marts and manufacturing cities of the kingdom. The line was opened for traffic on the 10th August, 1852. On leaving the Station and crossing the Linkwood road, the line separates from the Rothes section, and takes a wide sweep through the Leper Lands, occupied as nursery ground by Mr Morrison (p. 194.) At the old turnpike road, which is passed on a level crossing, the Order Pot is on the left, at the foot of the embankment (p. 193.) Opposite the Order Pot, and not many yards distant on the right, stood the Leper Hospital, or lazaret house, from which the lands take their name (p. 192.) As the line gains a higher elevation, the city appears to advantage, the hoary towers of the Cathedral and the domes and spires appearing through a profusion of stately trees. At no great distance from the line, on the left, are the extensive woollen manufactory and iron works of Newmill, with the Elgin Brewery and Kingsmills beyond. A glimpse is got of the village of Bishopmill, the most conspicuous buildings being Millbank House (p. 227), the Schools,

and the Union Poor-House (p. 229.) The Lossie is crossed on an elevated girder bridge, and a deep cutting carries the line through the Bareflat hill. On gaining the north side of the hill, a wide plain stretches eastward, with the farms of Easter and Wester Calcots near the banks of the Lossie, and Leuchars and Innes House in the distance, though unseen from the line. The plantation on the high ground to the left conceals Lesmurdie Cottage from view (p. 191); a short distance from which, on the same side, is the farm steading and lime kilns of Linksfield. Turning to the right again, Pitgaveny House stands out conspicuously through the surrounding trees (p. 115.) The most celebrated spot in the journey is now reached, viz., the Castle or Palace of Spynie, where, although part of the older portion shows signs of decrepitude, "Davie's Tower" still stands intact, a monument to his architectural skill and mechanical genius, and of his defiance of the threats of lay nobility; in 1867 it was considerably repaired and the spiral stair partly renewed, thus affording safe access to the summit of the lofty tower (p. 24.) We then enter what was at one time the Loch of Spynie, and where agricultural enterprise has now placed corn fields where, in days of old, ships were wont to ride at safe anchorage, and discharge the produce of foreign countries to supply the luxuries of the more wealthy burghers of Elgin. The loch was of considerable dimensions when the railway was formed through it, and wild-fowl constantly scrambled up the embankments, to be suddenly scared away by the approaching train. All this has passed away, and here the exhilarating sport of

skating will no more be engaged in during winter, nor the patient angler find the finny tribe so abundant in summer.* Passing several farms of excellent rich soil,

* The following notice of the Loch of Spynie is principally abridged from an article which appeared in the *Elgin Courant* in December, 1865 :—The Loch of Spynie is the last remnant of that great estuary which in ancient times separated the elevated grounds of Roseisle, Covesea, and the Coularhill, from the mainland of Moray, and which then formed a series of islands on the south side of the Moray Firth. The boundaries of this estuary extended from Lossiemouth westward along the line of the ancient basin lying between the base of the Spynie and Quarrywood range of hills on the south, and the elevated grounds of Ardivot and Salterhill on the north ; and it opened up a little to the west of Burghead. The bold escarpments on either side of the basin show that there had been a continued washing away of the steep shores by the strong tidal action of the waters moving up and down the estuary. All along the course of this estuary there are vast accumulations of marine shells, much larger and more numerous than what are seen along the shores of the firth at the present day. At some period prior to 1014 Roseisle must have been an island, with the tide ebbing and flowing in the valley between Burghead and Lossiemouth. In 1203 there were fishing villages on the banks of the Loch of Spynie, works for the manufacture of salt, and a harbour called the port of Spynie, which communicated with the sea by the channel of the Lossie, then a wide navigable estuary, capable of admitting vessels of considerable burden. Salmon and shell fish were found in the loch, which continued to be a salt water one, and the people of the village of Spynie were “fishers of sea fish,” and were in the habit of sailing with their wives and children to the sea and bringing back fish in boats to said port. The remains of a salt manufactory were dug up near Salterhill in 1856, a model of which was presented to the Elgin Museum by Dr Taylor. The precise period, and by what agency, the sea and the lake were separated, are involved in mystery. The barrier at the east end of the loch consists of a series of raised beaches, composed of large rounded stones, and extending a considerable way into the country. The barrier at the west end also consists of a series of raised beaches, some of them attaining a height above forty feet. So soon as the flow of sea water was checked, the basin became a large fresh-water lake ; its

the line enters a bed of deep shingle, which must have been thrown up by the littoral action of the tide at the period when the Loch of Spynie was an arm of the sea

boundries can be well ascertained by the deep deposits of shell-marl. Extensive beds of this substance are found on the estate of Westfield, on the farm of Waterton, and on the lower part of the estate of Findrassie, and at several other places along the great plain. According to Camden, in 1586 "the river Lossie spread itself out as it approaches the sea into a lake, cover'd with swans, and has on its banks Spynie Castle." The separation of the loch and the Lossie probably took place about the middle of the 17th century. A river so liable to high flood as the Lossie might change its course in a single night, especially as it had no great barriers to surmount—the country eastwards being a dead level for many miles. The loch must then have become a beautiful sheet of water indeed, and the feeding-ground of many birds not now to be seen in this district. In a map of the loch, made in 1783, it appears in all its length and breadth, reaching from Aikenhead, in the east, far to the west of Salterhill. The fresh water, even at this period, seems to have covered all the hollow the salt water had done in previous ages ; nor is it likely the depth had diminished. There was then a ferry-boat between Salterhill and a spot on the south side not far from that on which the Morayshire Tile Works now stand, and the depth of water in the line of the boat was between four and five feet. The direct road from Bishopmill to Covesea was by this ferry ; and the one to Lossiemouth was round the east end of the loch, by Pitgaveny. But there had been a road by stepping-stones across the loch ; it was supposed, in 1783, to be under the water at a spot called Fowlinch, about a mile to the east of the Palace of Spynie. It is pretty certain that the loch had been reduced by artificial means, between the years 1500, or thereby, and 1783 ; for in a "Survey of the Province," published by the late Mr Isaac Forsyth in the end of last century, it is said that when an ancient drain was improved into the then present canal, which lowered the surface of the loch several feet, vestiges of once cultivated ground were laid bare, and also the Bishop's Stepping Stones. All records regarding the making of this ancient ditch seem to be lost. When the Lossie ran through the loch, it was quite sufficient for the drainage of the district ; but when the river was diverted into another channel there was no outlet left for the constantly accumulating waters of the loch ; thus to the neigh-

flowing along the Laigh of Duffus and joining the Frith at the promontory of Burghead—the Coularthill and the Hill of Roseisle being thus an isolated island. Where

louring proprietors and tenants a proper outlet for the waters became a necessity, and so the original ditch must soon thereafter have been formed, as in 1778 it was called the “ancient ditch.” The first effort to drain the Loch, of which we have an authentic account, was made in 1779, by James Brander of Pitgaveny, who without any aid from the neighbouring proprietors, deepened and widened the ancient ditch to such an extent that he lowered the surface of the loch three feet four inches, and recovered one thousand one hundred and sixty-two acres of land. Eight hundred acres of this fell to his own share, including the portion of land benefited belonging to his brother, who was then proprietor of Kinneddar; one hundred and four acres to the estate of Gordonstown, in the parish of Drainie; one hundred and thirty-two to the estate of Duffus, in the parish of Duffus; seventy-two to the Earl of Fife, in the parish of Spynie; fifty-one to the estate of Findrassie; and three to the estate of Westfield. Before Mr Brander deepened the ditch, the loch was one immense sheet of water, more than four miles long, and covering more than 2000 Scotch acres, or upwards of 2500 imperial acres, besides the great margin of marsh occasionally overflowed when the loch was high, and thus rendered all but useless for agricultural purposes. Mr Brander’s drainage of the loch brought into view, as Mr Forsyth says, ridges wholly divested of sward, artificial roads, enclosures, an island at the west end of the loch, and a quantity of peat ashes buried under the turf wall of a cottage, and a number of coins among the ashes, which seem to have been concealed by people living on the spot, alarmed by some danger. The great flood of 1782 probably caused considerable damage to Mr Brander’s canal, and the water in the loch began to increase as before, until the neighbouring proprietors agreed to consult the celebrated engineer, Telford, who was then finishing his great work, the Caledonian Canal. Mr Telford’s plan consisted of a canal running through the entire length of the loch and the shingle beaches at Lossiemouth, with locks to keep back the tide. This work, begun in 1808, was finished in 1812 at a cost, including law expenses, of £12,740 1s 10d, and for nearly twenty years afterwards a law-suit was carried on as to the proper division of the land reclaimed. Besides the direct advantage gained by the increase

the line enters Lossiemouth, the gravel deposit is mixed more with sand. Passing the Market Cross on the left (p. 298), and the shipbuilding yards on the right,

of arable land, the canal enabled the Salterhill ferry boat to be dispensed with, and a road formed where it had formerly been placed; the turnpike road being also made through the loch in a direct line with Lossiemouth. During the flood of 1829, the Lossie, having burst its barriers, carried away the sluices and damaged the canal by filling it with stones and soil. With a few partial repairs, matters remained the same from 1829 till 1860, when the neighbouring proprietors, prompted by their tenants (who had suffered heavy loss by the increase of the water), agreed to send a deputation to the marsh-drained districts of England to see the different plans there adopted, and report upon them. The members of this deputation were—P. P. Sellar, Esq. of Westfield, to represent the proprietors; James Geddes, Esq., Orbliston, to represent factors; John A. Cooper, Esq., to represent tenants; and P. MacBey, Esq., land surveyor, as professional adviser. The deputation, on their return, proposed two schemes for draining the loch—one by self-acting sluices, and another by steam power. The former proposal was adopted, and Mr MacBey proceeded with the necessary plans. After surmounting several engineering difficulties, and at heavy pecuniary loss to the contractors, four self-acting sluices were fixed near the sea. The deepening of the canal from the locks upwards was carried out with a fall of six inches to the mile, and cost nearly £8000. Measurements taken by Mr MacBey showed that under ordinary circumstances, 39,915,700 gallons of fresh water ran out of the loch into the sea every twenty-four hours. It was also ascertained, taking the loch at an average depth of two feet, that it contained 543,471,388 gallons of water, which has now been reduced to a mere pool a little to the westward of the old Palace of Spynie, where the Bishops had their harbour, which they deepened for the accommodation of ships trading to the port of Spynie; and it is believed, owing to the completeness of the drainage, that even this last relic of the loch may be taken away, leaving nothing to be seen of water but a huge drain from the sea up the centre of the valley, with many cross drains as feeders to it from the lands on either side. The breadth of land improved and reclaimed will amply repay the outlay.

We append copy of a letter, &c., which gives additional information, and which was addressed to the editor of the *Elgin Courant* in

the line takes a quick turn and passes along the quay of the old harbour to the Station, at the junction of the villages of Lossiemouth and Branderburgh, a few yards from the inner basin of the harbour. Here there is an excellent hotel, erected by the Morayshire Railway Company in 1856.

December, 1865, by Captain Dunbar Dunbar :—“ By a decreet arbitral, dated 28th April, 1601, the laird of Duffus was bound to make reparation to Archibald Douglas of Pittendreich, for the ‘losses whilk he might sustain throw ffloeing and overffloeing of the lands of Pitgivinie, then belonging to him, throw the upholding of the deiks and cluzes [dykes and sluices] att Kay’s Foard, for outholding of the water of Lossie furth of the Loch of Spynie, for recovering of the drowned lands of Salcoats, and Hous and Mains of Duffus.’ In the year 1609, David Anderson, burgess of Aberdeen, ‘whose mechanical genius,’ says Sir Samuel Forbes of Foveran, ‘performed such things as got for him the name of “Davie-do-all-things,”’ was consulted about the drainage of the Loch of Spynie. Four of his letters on the subject are extant, but, unfortunately, they have been mislaid. In the meantime I append an inventory, which may interest some of your readers, and I remain, your obedient servant,

“ E. DUNBAR DUNBAR.”

Inventory of Writs delivered by Sir Alexr. Dunbar of Northfield, Bart., who was examined as a haver of writes in the process of declarator, at the instance of Sir William Gordon of Gordonstown, Bart., against Alexr. Brander, Esq. of Kinneddar, and John Brander, Esq. of Pitgaveny, depending before the Lords of Session, to Alex. Brander, merchant in Elgin, ffactor for saids Alexr. and John Brander, to be by him transmitted to their agent at Edinburgh, to be lodged in time for process, marked or doqueted on the back as follows :—

- I. Extract contract betwixt the heritors of the lands adjacent to the river Lossie, registered in the Commissary Court books of Murray, 2d May, 1707.
- II. Proposals for draining the Loch of Spynie by Act of Parliament, sent to Brodie the 18th of January, 1727.
- III. Articles anent draining the Loch of Spynie.
- IV. Minutes of a contract for Repairing and Guarding the Banks of Lossie.
- V. Proposals for Draining the Loch of Spynie, &c., 1738.
- VI. Memoir anent Lossie, &c.

The above six papers are unsigned, except the first, and delivered to Alex. Brander.

Elgin, 20th Aug., 1782.

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DURING the time necessarily occupied in passing such a work through the local press, several changes have taken place by death, removal, &c., the more important of which are the deaths of the Right Hon. John Stuart, twelfth Earl of Moray, who was succeeded by his brother, Archibald George, now thirteenth Earl; of Captain Grant, younger of Glenmoriston and Moy, who died August 17, 1867; and of W. H. Leith, Esq. of Palmercross, who died April 20, 1868.

ERRATA.

Page 16, line 5 from bottom.—After Pennant, add—prior to the publication of his work in 1790.

Page 35, last line.—Instead of Mr Grant Duff, M.P. for the Elgin Burghs, read—The heirs of the late Mrs Grant Duff of Eden. The Dunbars of Blervie, mentioned in this page, were a branch of the Dunbars of Kilbuiak.

Page 71.—For Dunphail Castle, read Dunphail House; and near bottom of page, for Westfield branch, read Tarbat branch.

Page 75, line 8 from bottom.—For Sir John Viscount of Arbuthnot, read John, Sixth Viscount of Arbuthnot.

Page 317, line 8.—For Tummel, read Garry.

Page 317—foot-note.—For the leader of the Covenanters, read—Commander in Scotland for King William.

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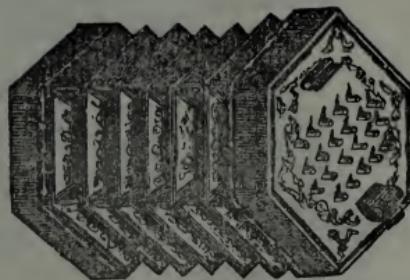
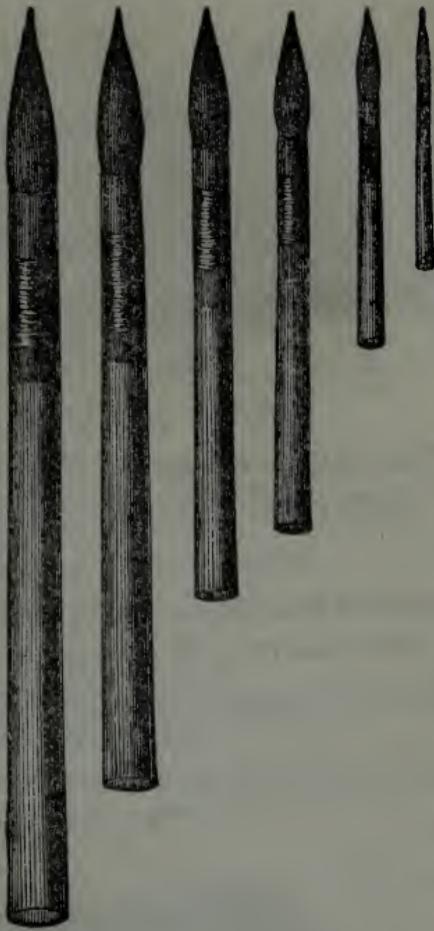
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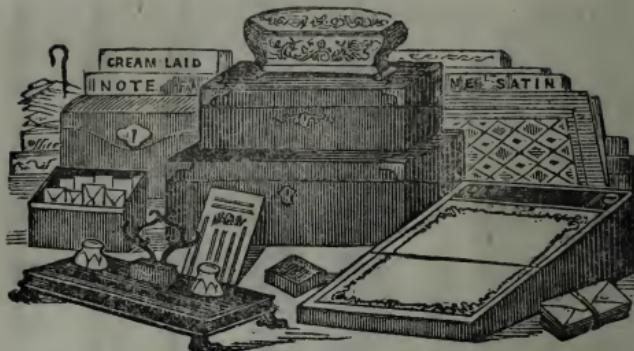


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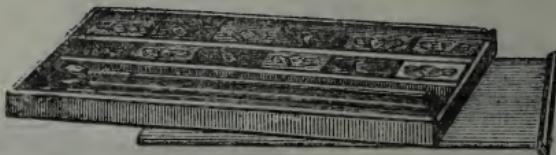
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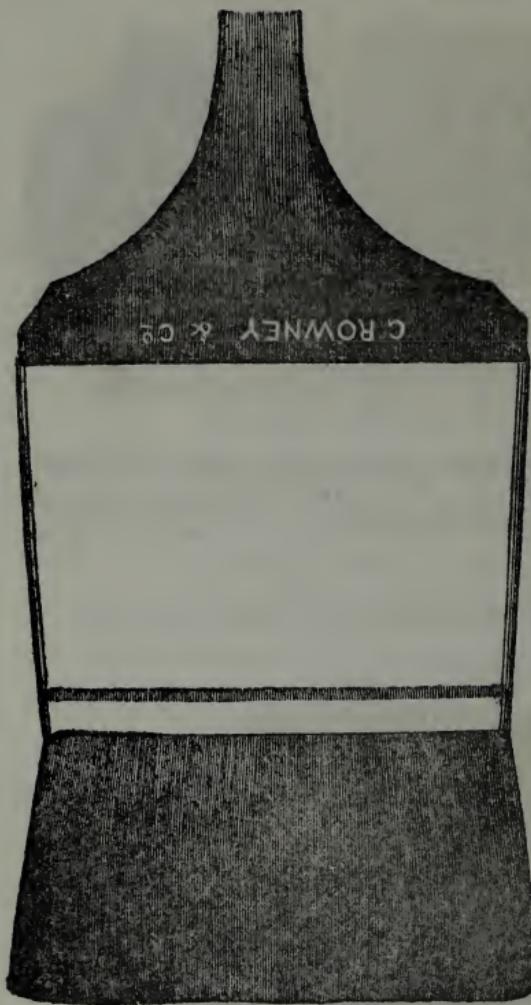
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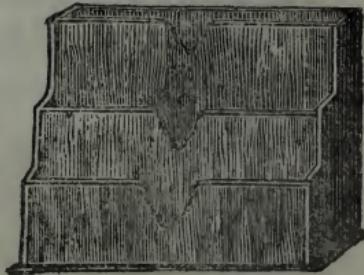
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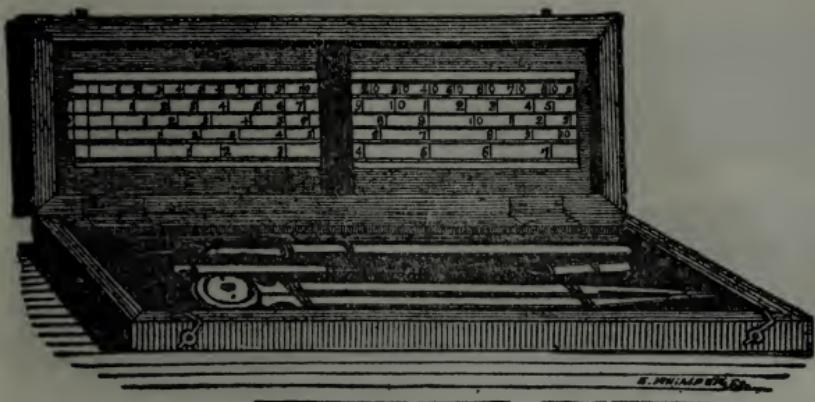


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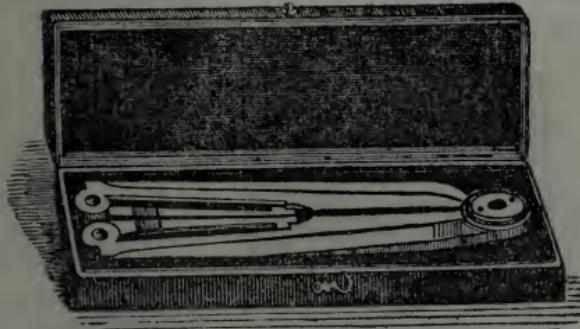
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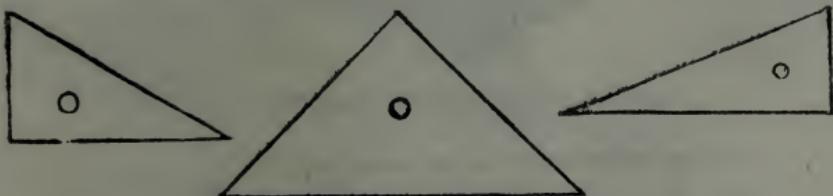
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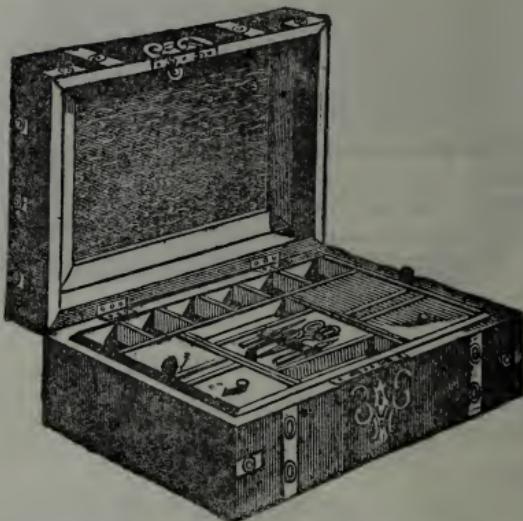
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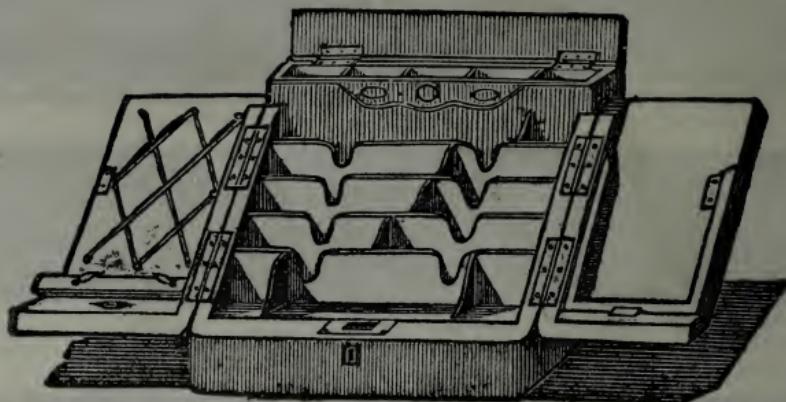
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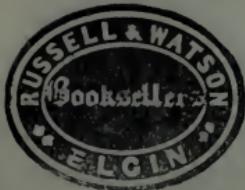
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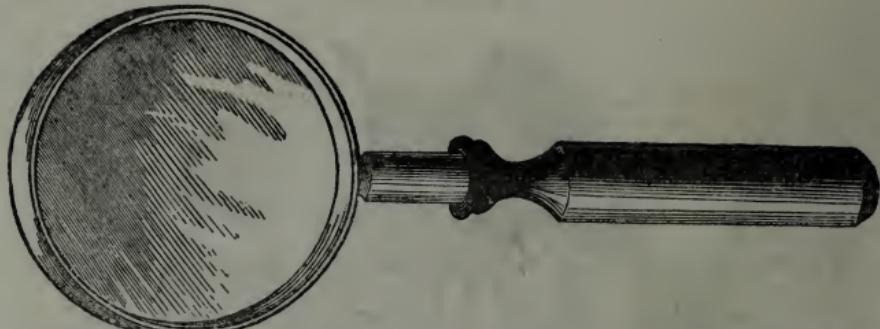


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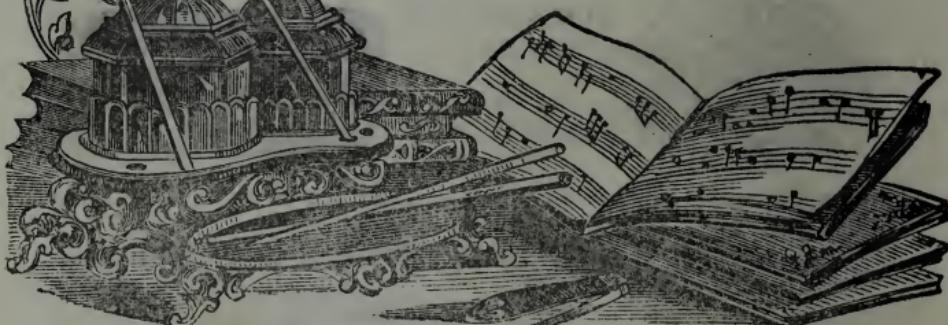
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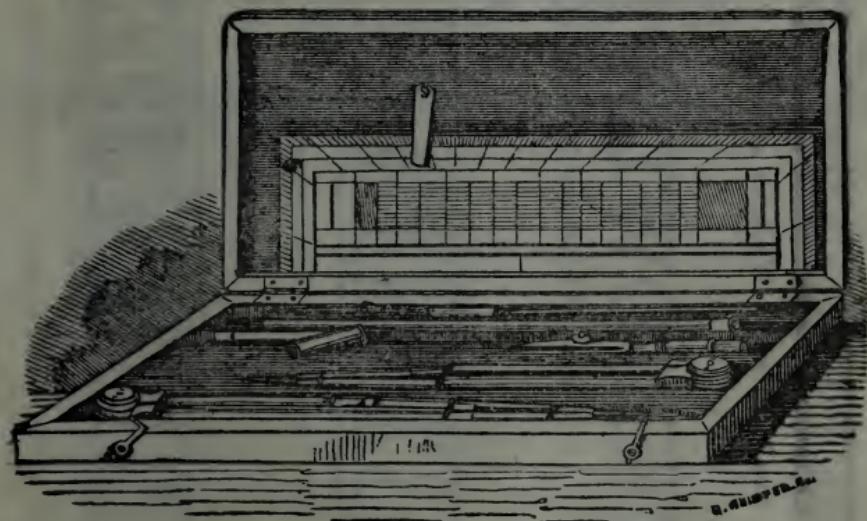
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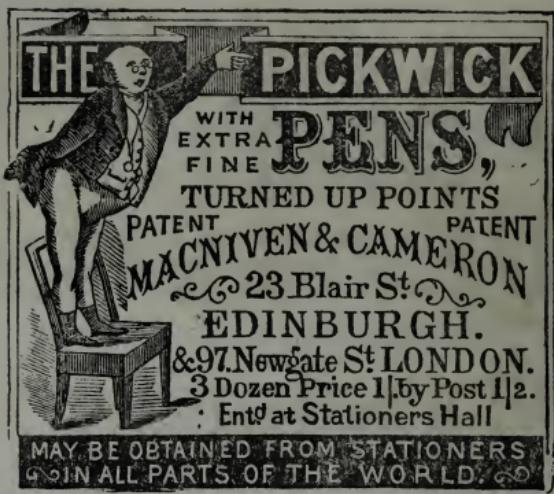


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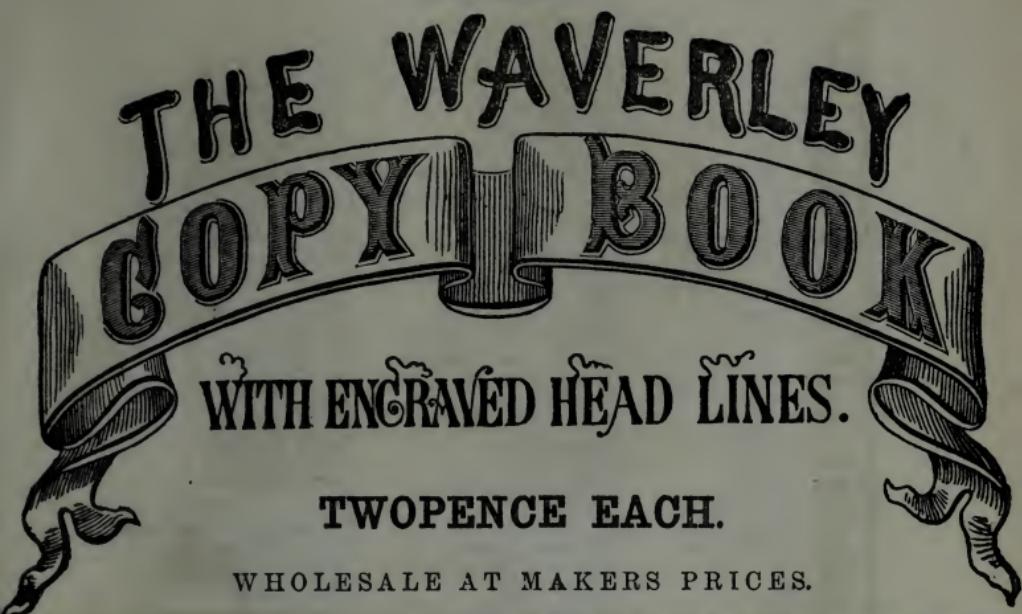


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Gummed Tickets,	Parchment,	Tinted Writing Papers,
Gunter's Scales,	— Cuttings,	Tinted Note Paper, in
Grate Ornaments,	— Labels,	Boxes,
Hand-Made Papers,	Paste Boards,	Tissue Papers,
Henderson's Reckoners,	Pencils,	Todd's Inks,
Histories,	Pencil Cases,	Tourists' Writing Cases,
Imperial Bands,	Pens,	Toy Slates,
Indexes,	Pen Cases,	Tracing Papers,
Indian Ink,	Penmaking Machines,	Transparent Slates,
Indian Rubber,	Pen Wipers,	Tune Boards,
India Rubber Balls,	— Holders,	Valentines,
Inks,	Perforated Boards,	Valentine Cards,
Ink Erasers,	— Cards,	— Envelopes,
— Glasses,	Pewter Ink Stands,	— Note Papers
— Jars,	Pass Books,	— Summonses,
— Pewter Stands.	Picture Books,	Vellum Cuttings,
— Stands,	Periodicals,	Violin Books,
— Wells,	Preserve Labels,	— Bridges,
Invoice-Books,	Pen Knives,	— Strings,
Kent Tinted Linear Note	Pocket Knives,	Vocal Music Book,
Paper,	Pianoforte Tutor,	Wafers,
Lead Pencils,	Pink Tape,	Wafer Seals,
Leather,	Pirie's Linear Papers,	Waste Cards,
Letter Balances,	Playing Cards,	Wax,
— Books,	Pocket Books,	Wax, Parcelling,
— Clips,	— Ledgers,	Wedding Envelopes,
— Files,	— Inks,	West-End Memorandum
— Weights,	Poetry Cards,	Books,
Letter Writers,	Portemoneaies.	Workmen's Time-Books,
Linear Papers,	Present and Gift Books,	Wrapping Papers,
— Envelopes,	Pressings,	Writing Desks,
Lowe's Steel Pens,	Printed Account Books,	Writing Papers.
Luggage Labels,	Printing Papers,	Work Boxes,
Maps,	Do. do coloured,	Waverley Inks,

